Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO.31 FEB.
$1.50
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™
46977
KNUCKLES™ SOLO STORY INSIDE!
ROBOTNIK EXPRESS
SPAZ HARD

EAT *YOUR* HEART OUT, SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™!

PRINCESS SALLY IS BACK IN ACTION *AGAIN!*

A ROBOT RIDES THE *RAILS*

PART ONE

WHAM!

AND HER MAJOR DOMO NICOLE IS NONE TOO THRILLED WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT EITHER!

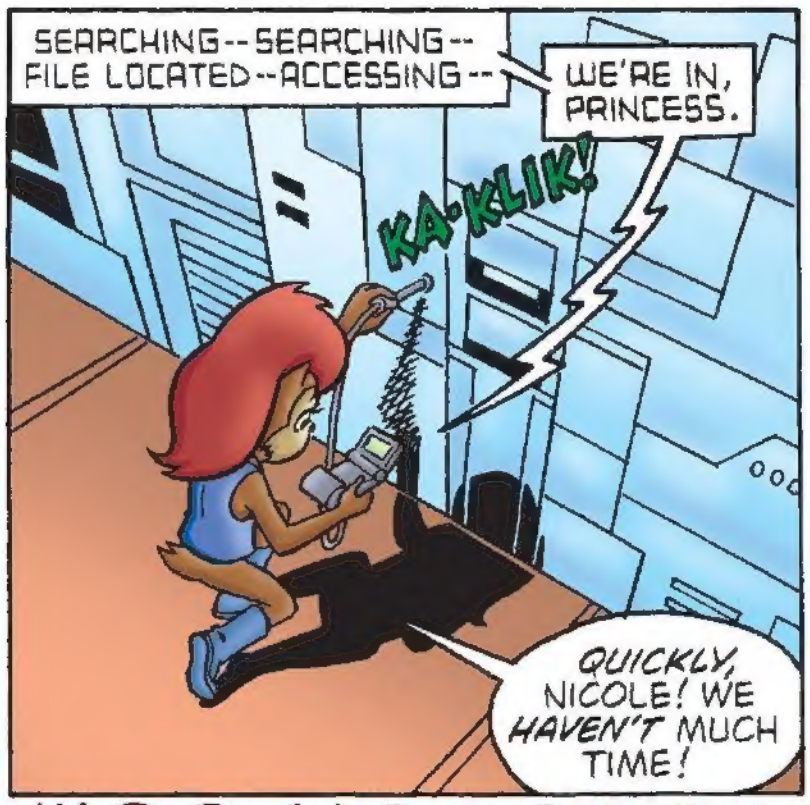
THIS IS FOOLISH, PRINCESS! WE CAME TO GATHER INFORMATION--

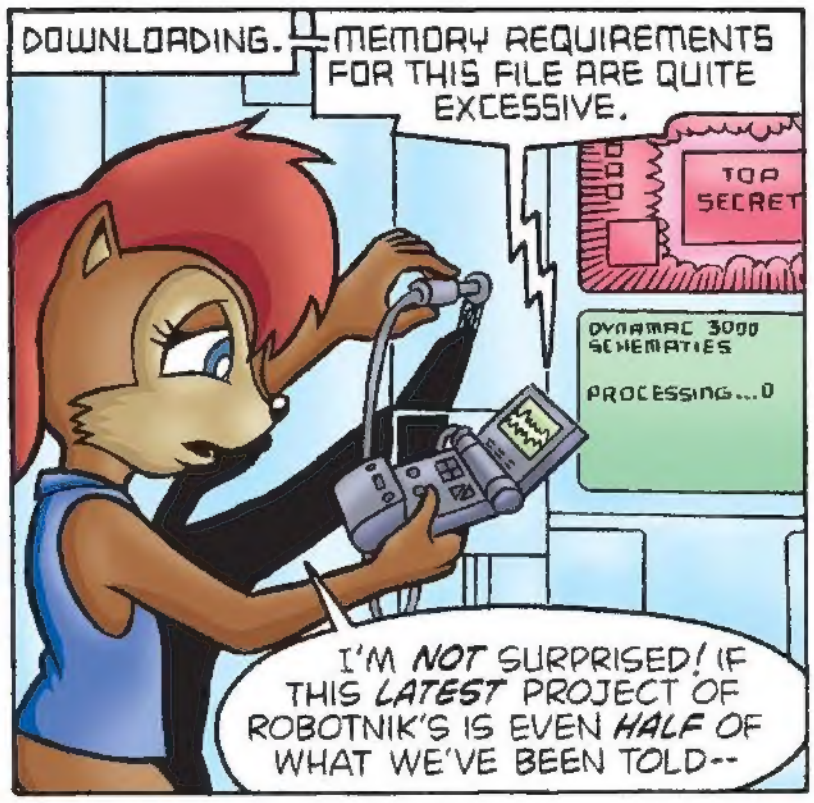
SCRIPT & PENCILS: KEN PENDERS
INKS: JON D'AGOSTINO
LETTERING: MINDY EISMAN
COLORING: BARRY GROSSMAN
EDITOR: SCOTT FULOP
MANAGING EDITOR: VICTOR GORELICK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: RICHARD GOLDWATER

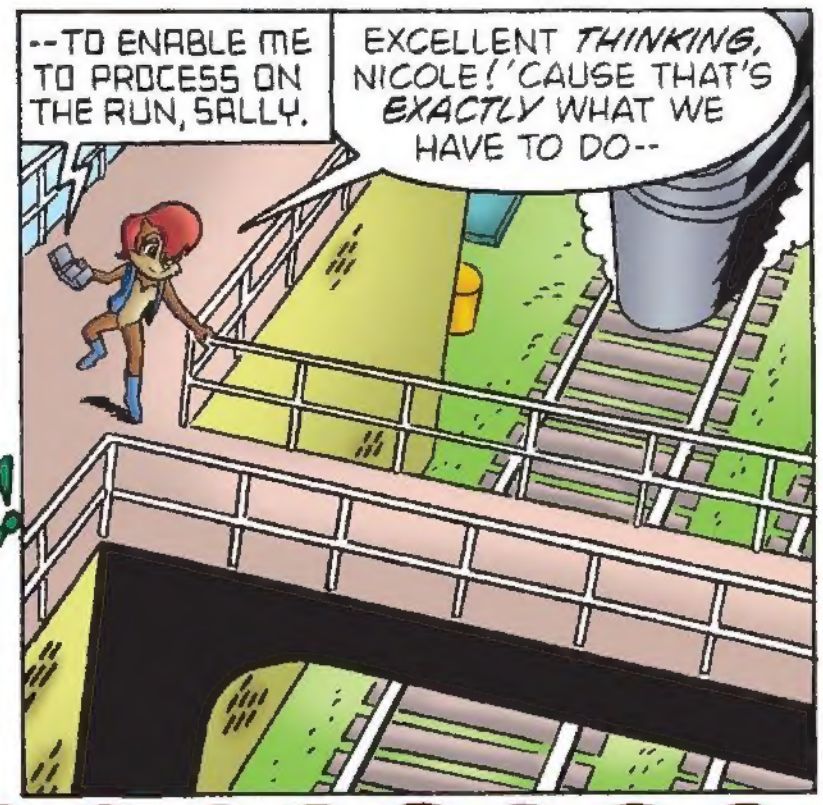
--NOT GO OFF ON SOME WILD ADVENTURE!

WE'RE *FREEDOM FIGHTERS,* NICOLE! THAT MEANS WE HAVE TO BE *READY* FOR *ANYTHING* AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE!

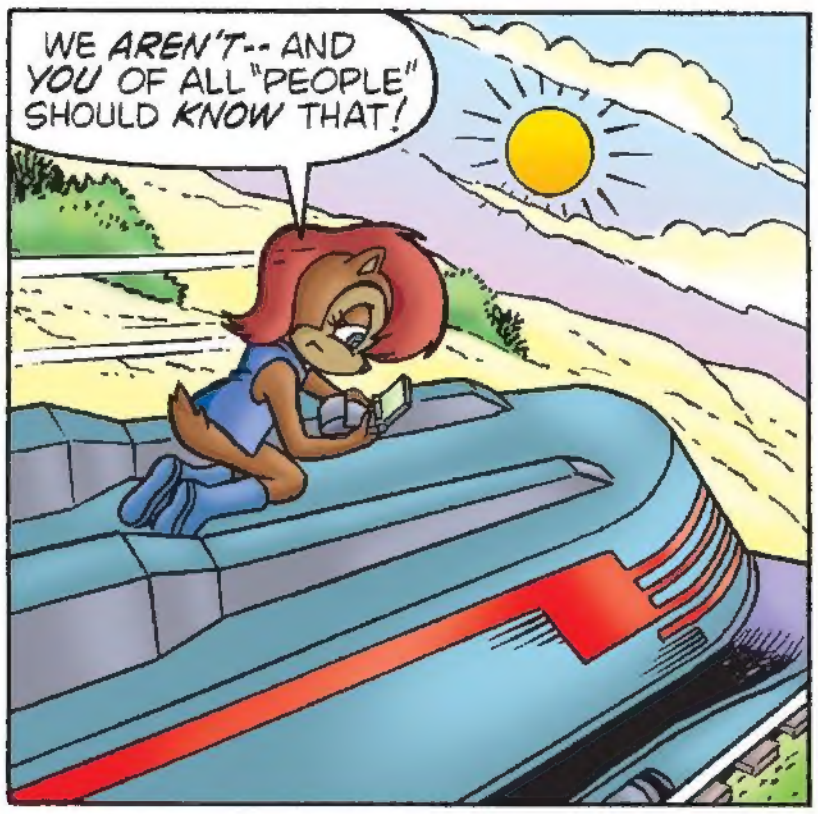
THAT DOESN'T MEAN OPERATING WITHOUT BACK-UP!

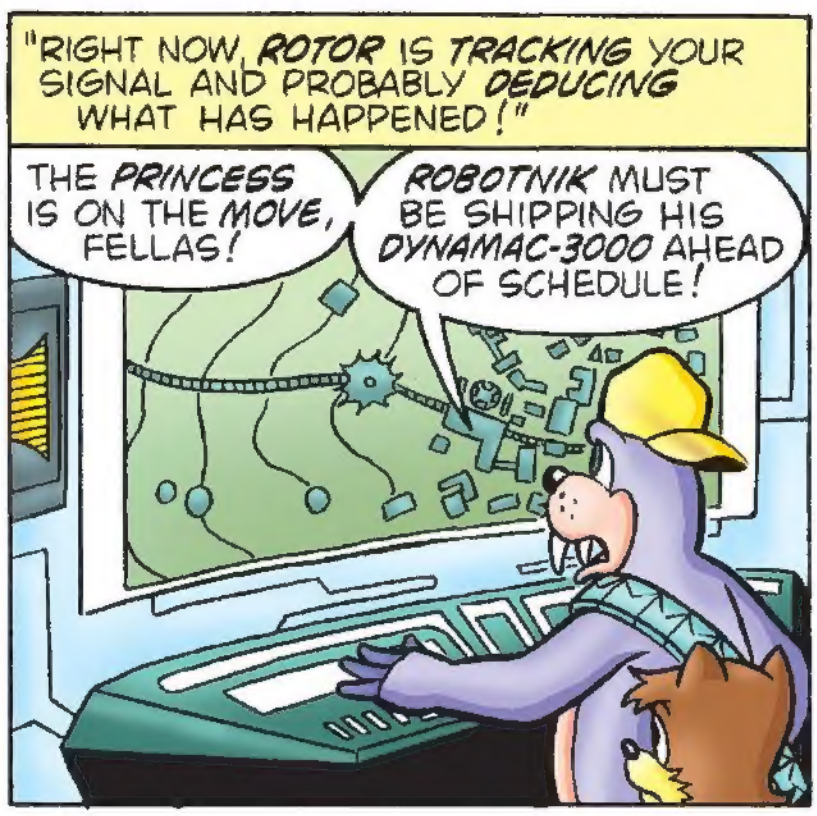


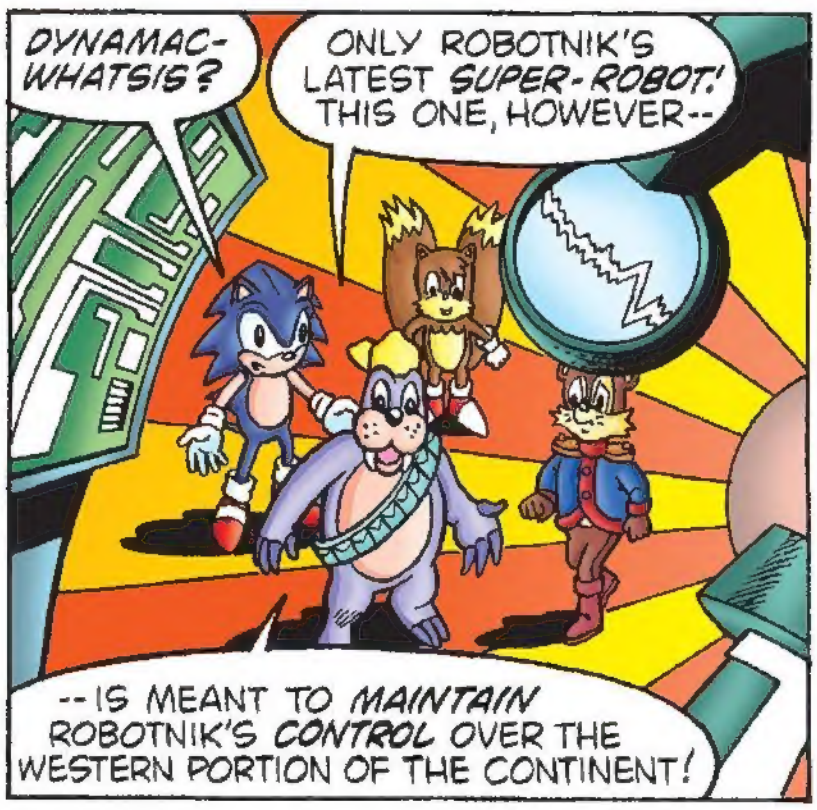




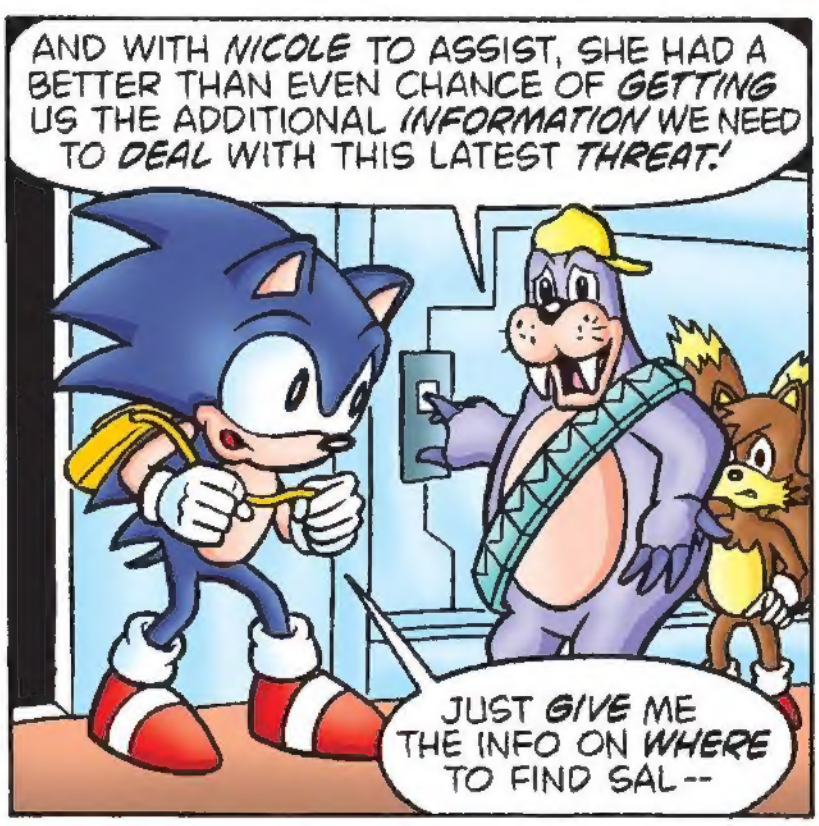
CHUG-CHUG-CHUGGA-CHUGGA-

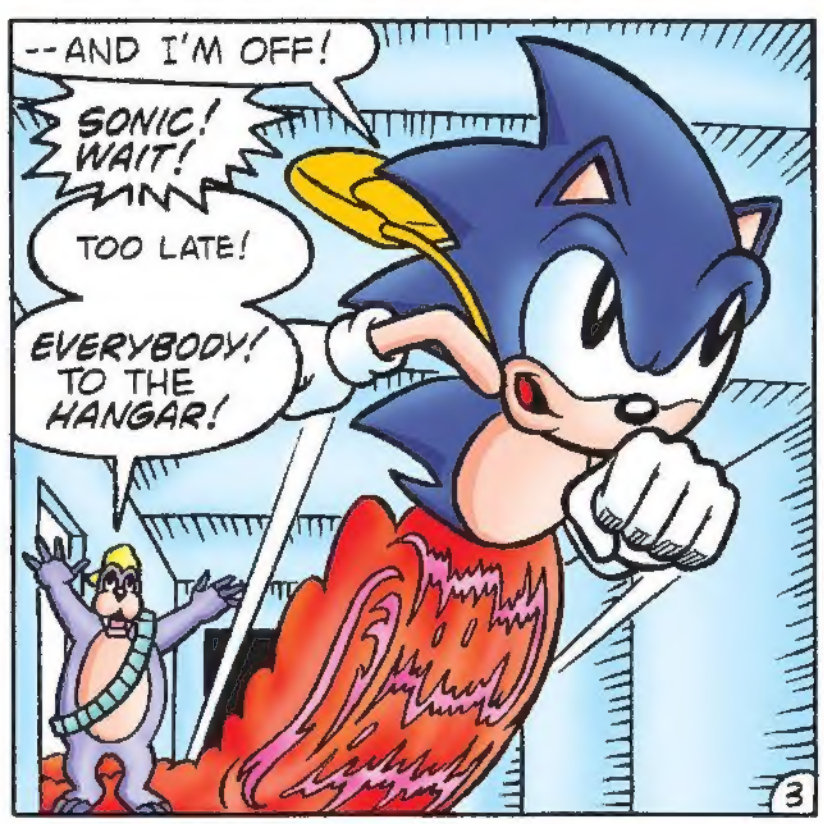

WE AREN'T-- AND YOU OF ALL "PEOPLE" SHOULD KNOW THAT!

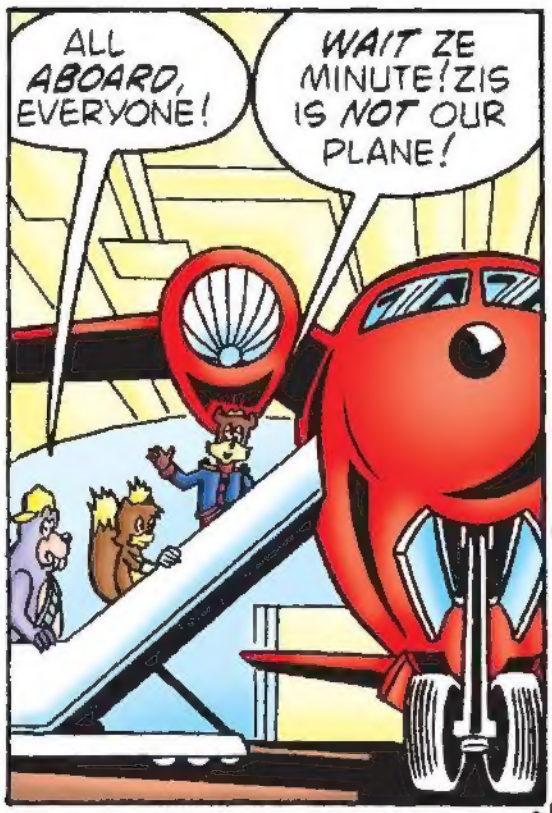

"RIGHT NOW, ROTOR IS TRACKING YOUR SIGNAL AND PROBABLY DEDUCING WHAT HAS HAPPENED!"
THE PRINCESS IS ON THE MOVE, FELLAS!
ROBOTNIK MUST BE SHIPPING HIS DYNAMAC-3000 AHEAD OF SCHEDULE!


DYNAMAC-WHATSIS?
ONLY ROBOTNIK'S LATEST SUPER-ROBOT! THIS ONE, HOWEVER--
--IS MEANT TO MAINTAIN ROBOTNIK'S CONTROL OVER THE WESTERN PORTION OF THE CONTINENT!

OUR AGENTS IN ROBOTROPOLIS HAVE BEEN COMPILING INFORMATION ON THIS ONE FOR SOME TIME--
--AND SALLY THOUGHT IT WAS WORTH GOING IN AND PERSONALLY CHECKING IT OUT!


AND WITH NICOLE TO ASSIST, SHE HAD A BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE OF GETTING US THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WE NEED TO DEAL WITH THIS LATEST THREAT!
JUST GIVE ME THE INFO ON WHERE TO FIND SAL--


--AND I'M OFF!
SONIC! WAIT!
TOO LATE!
EVERYBODY! TO THE HANGAR!

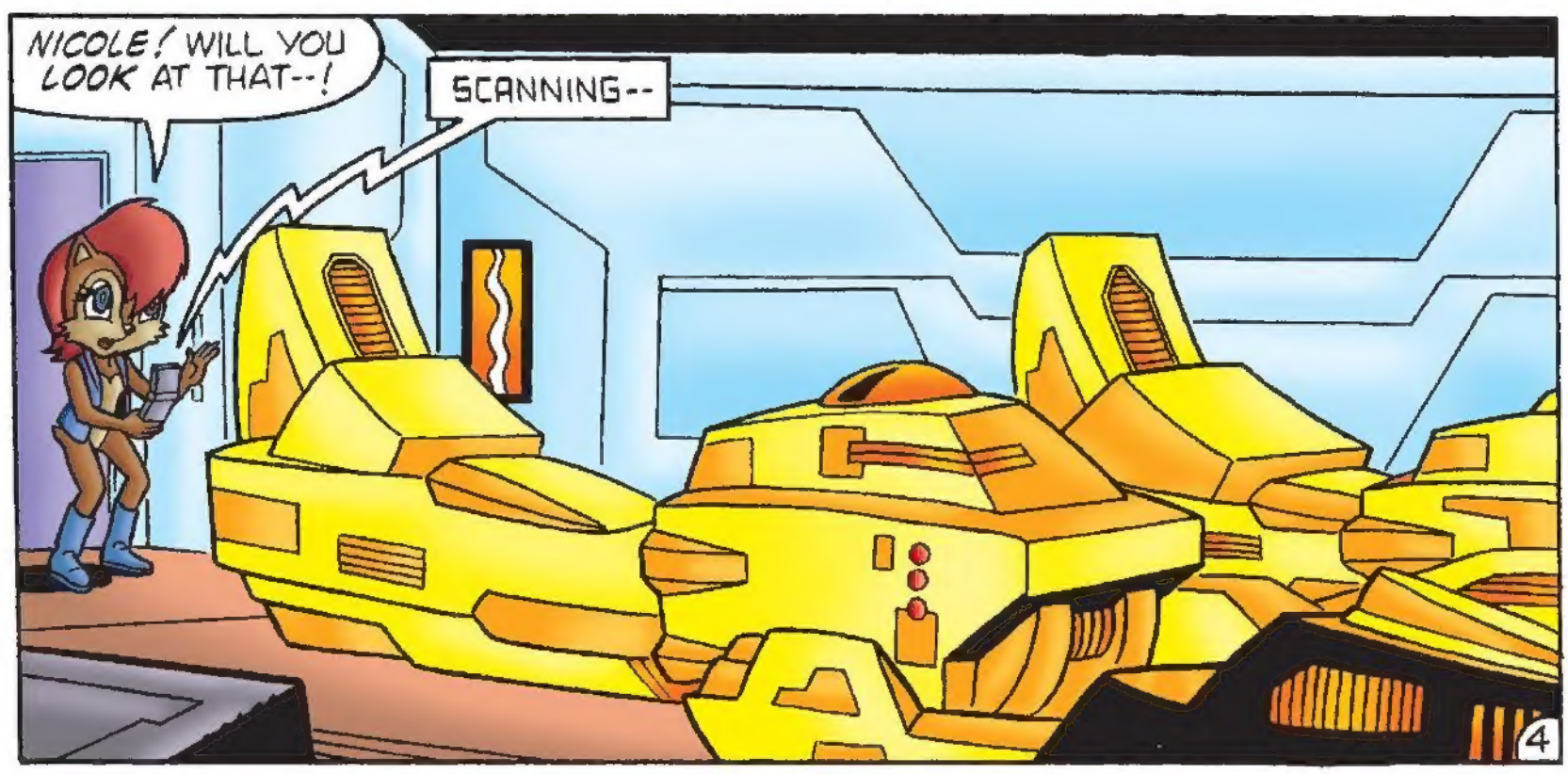

ALL ABOARD, EVERYONE!
WAIT ZE MINUTE! ZIS IS NOT OUR PLANE!

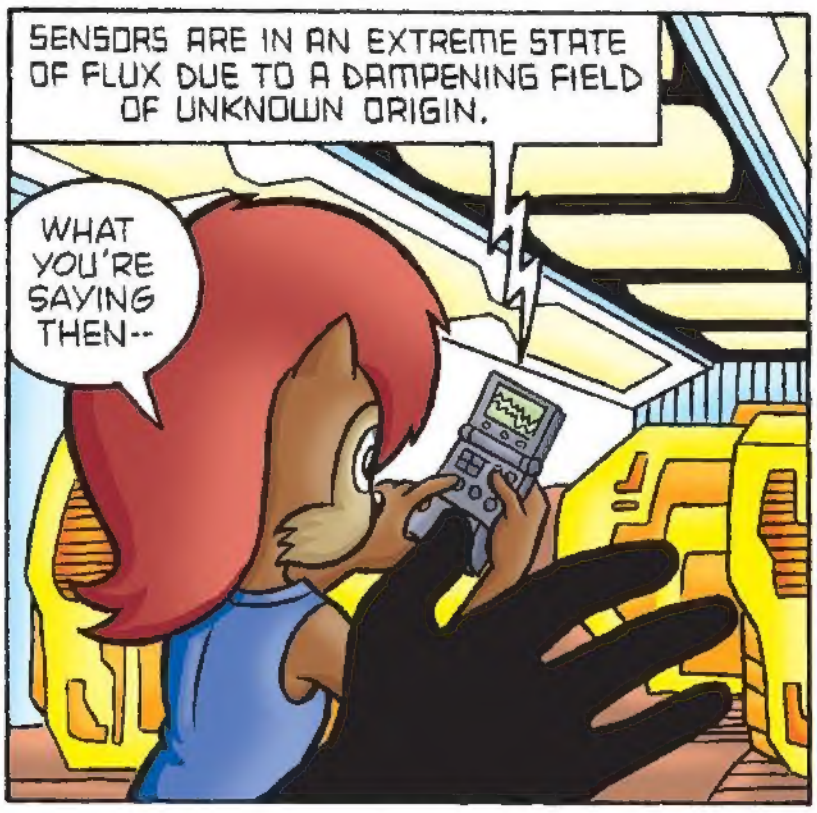
YES IT IS, ANTOINE!
I JUST MADE A FEW MODIFICATIONS RECENTLY!
ZAT WAS WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF!

ALL ZE TIME, I ZAY--

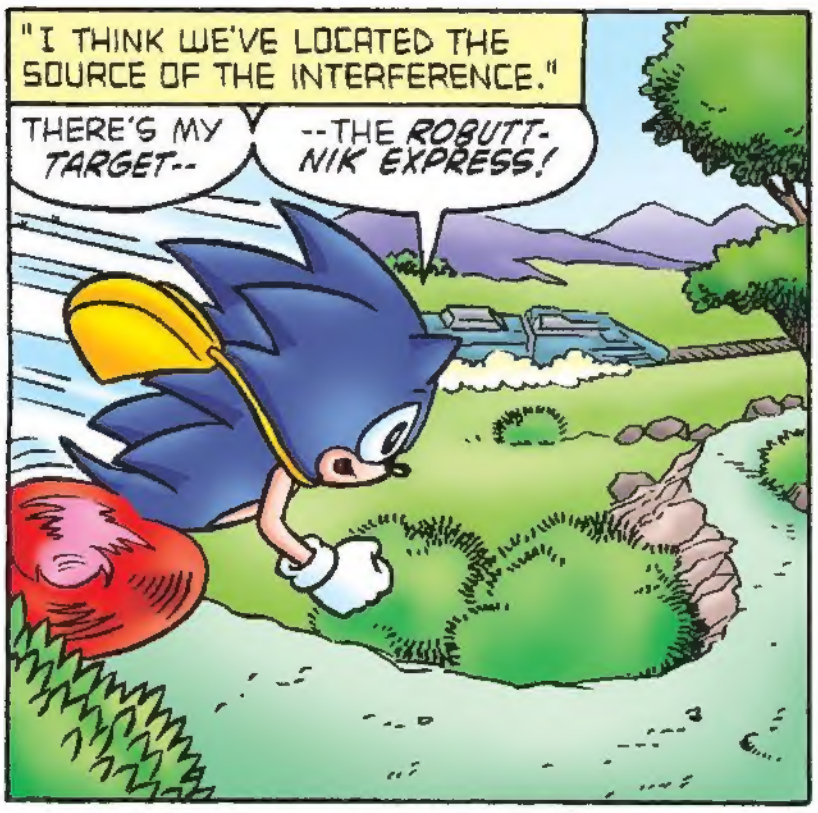
"-- ZIS IS NO WAY TO RUN AN AIRLINE!"
KLIKETY-KLAK-KLIK

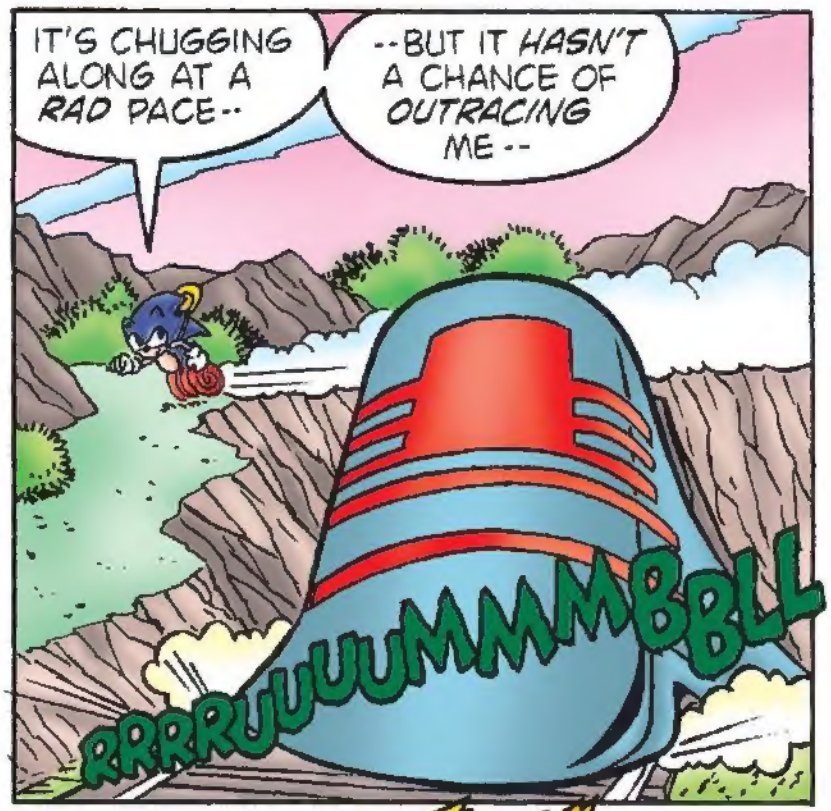
SWIISH!
AK-KLI
KLIKETY-KLAK-KLIKET

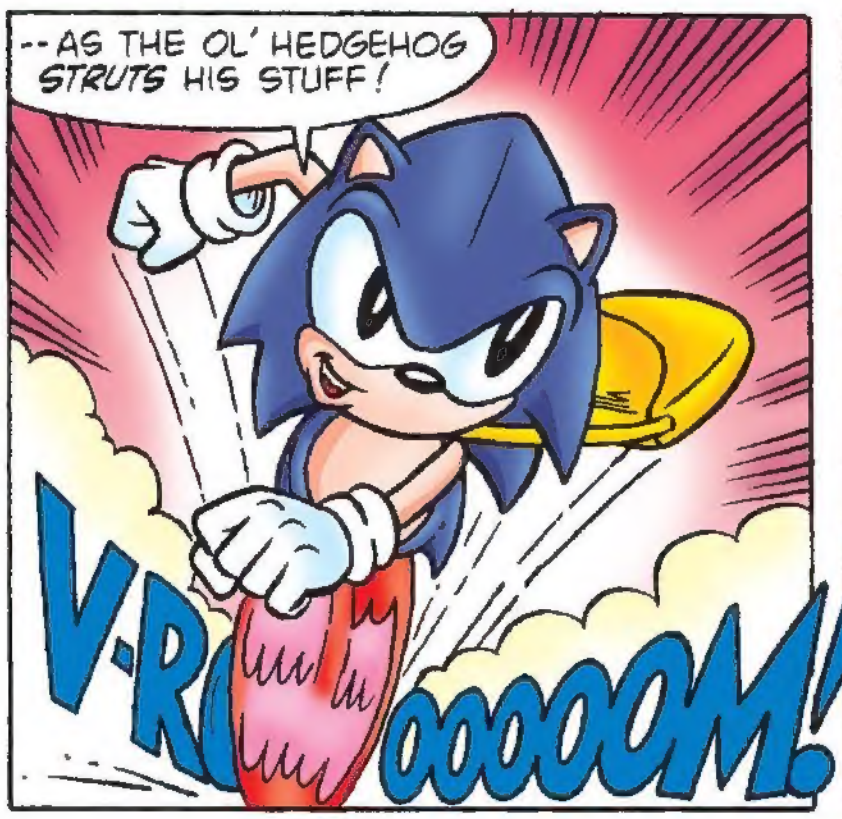

NICOLE! WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT--!
SCANNING--

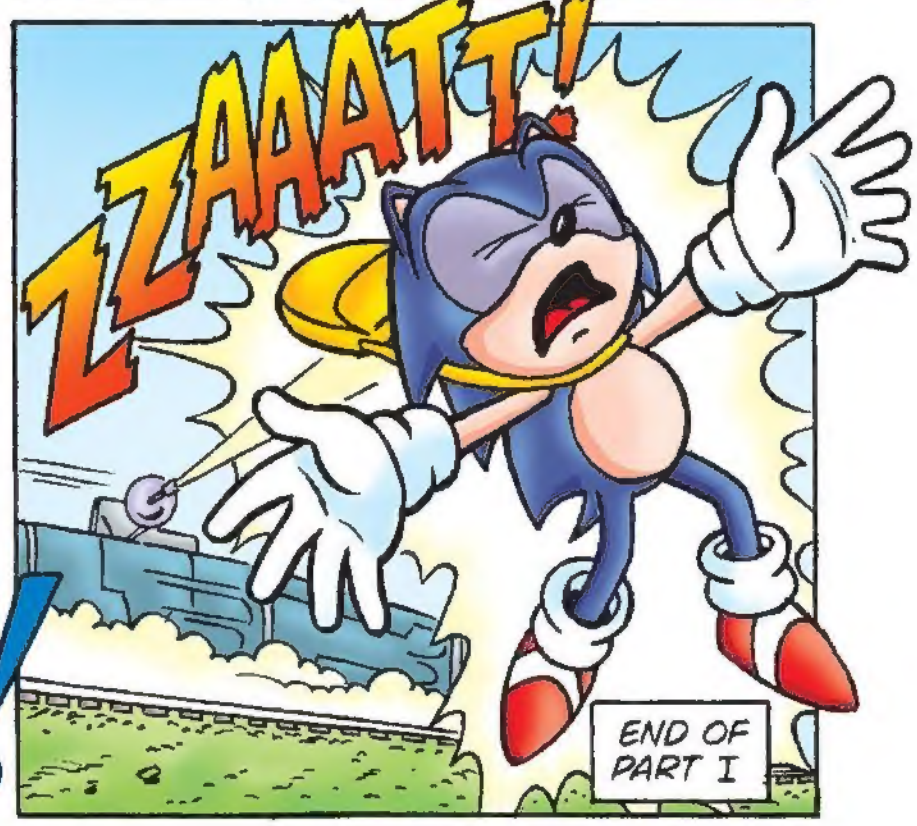

SENSORS ARE IN AN EXTREME STATE OF FLUX DUE TO A DAMPENING FIELD OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN.
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING THEN--

--IS THAT SOMETHING IS INTERFERI--
MMMPPHHH!
SALLY!


"I THINK WE'VE LOCATED THE SOURCE OF THE INTERFERENCE."
THERE'S MY TARGET--
--THE ROBUTT-NIK EXPRESS!


IT'S CHUGGING ALONG AT A RAD PACE--
--BUT IT HASN'T A CHANCE OF OUTRACING ME--
RRRRUUUUMMMBBLL


--AS THE OL' HEDGEHOG STRUTS HIS STUFF!
V-R OOOOOM!


ZZAAATT!
END OF PART I

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

A RUBUT RIDES THE RAILS

PART TWO

WELL, I'M NOT GEOFFREY ST. JOHN!

LUV! AT LEAST, NOT SINCE THE *LAST* TIME I *CHECKED*, THAT IS!*

WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?

AND WHAT'S WITH THE *STRONG ARM STUFF*?

I THOUGHT *WE* WERE *FRIENDS!*

LK-KLIKETY-KLA

ETY-KLAK-KLIKETY-KLA

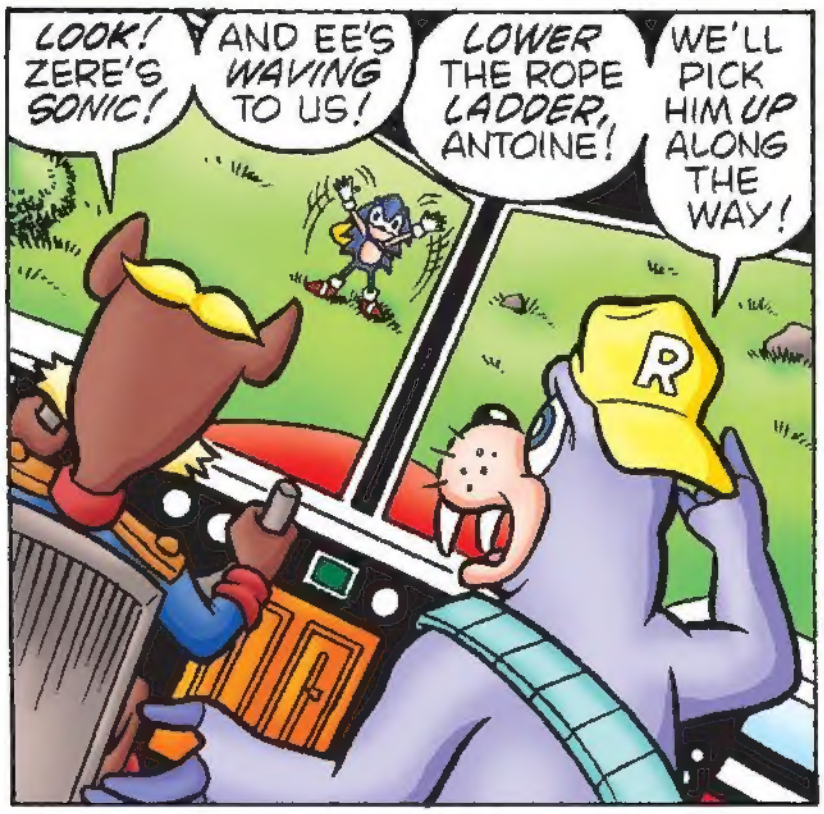
* REMEMBER GEOFFREY FROM THE PRINCESS SALLY MINI-SERIES ? -- *Editor*

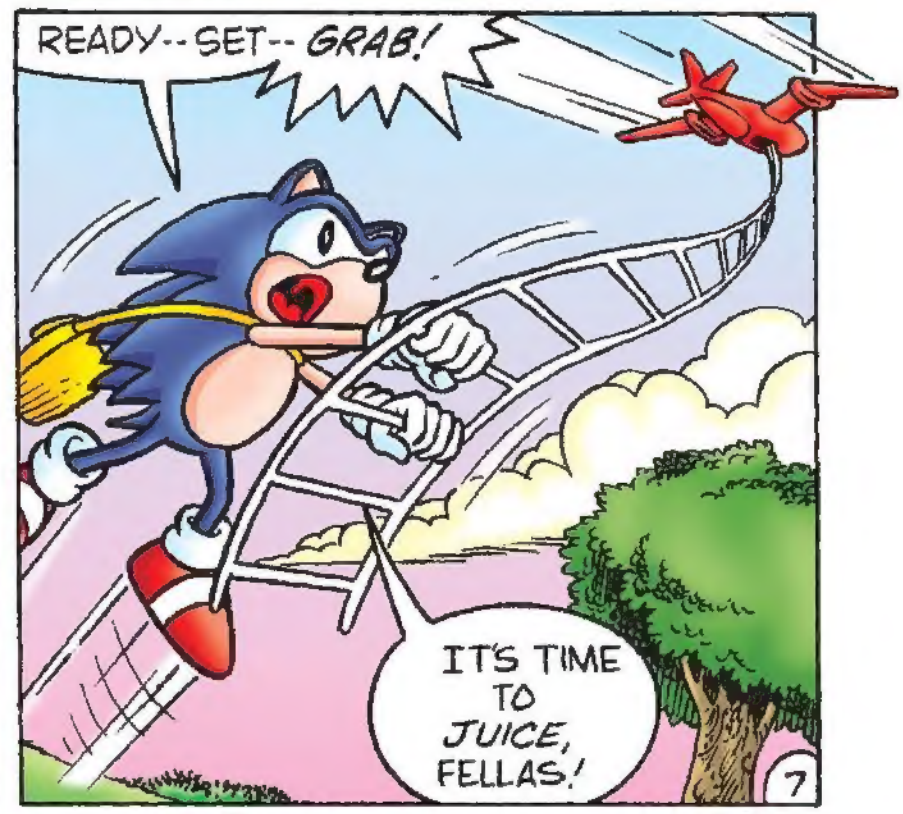
--AND I MIGHT GET THE WRONG IDEA IF I DON'T GET AN ANSWER!
I SEE YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED EITHER!
SIMPLY PUT, LUV, ME AN' THE LADS ARE HERE TO PUT THE KIBOSH ON DINGO OVER HERE!

AFTER ALL, HE'S NOT JUST ANY ORDINARY MECHANOID ROBOTNIK IS SENDING OUT TO OUR NECK OF THE WOODS--

"--HE'S A TIGER OF DEADLIER STRIPES!"
OOOH!
WHICH WAY WAS THAT LOCOMOTIVE GOING?
WAIT! THAT WASN'T ANY TRAIN THAT ZAPPED ME--

--MORE LIKE A SWATBOT'S LASER!
STILL A BIT WOOZY FROM THE BLAST, TOO!
GUESS THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE AS EASY AS I THOUGHT!

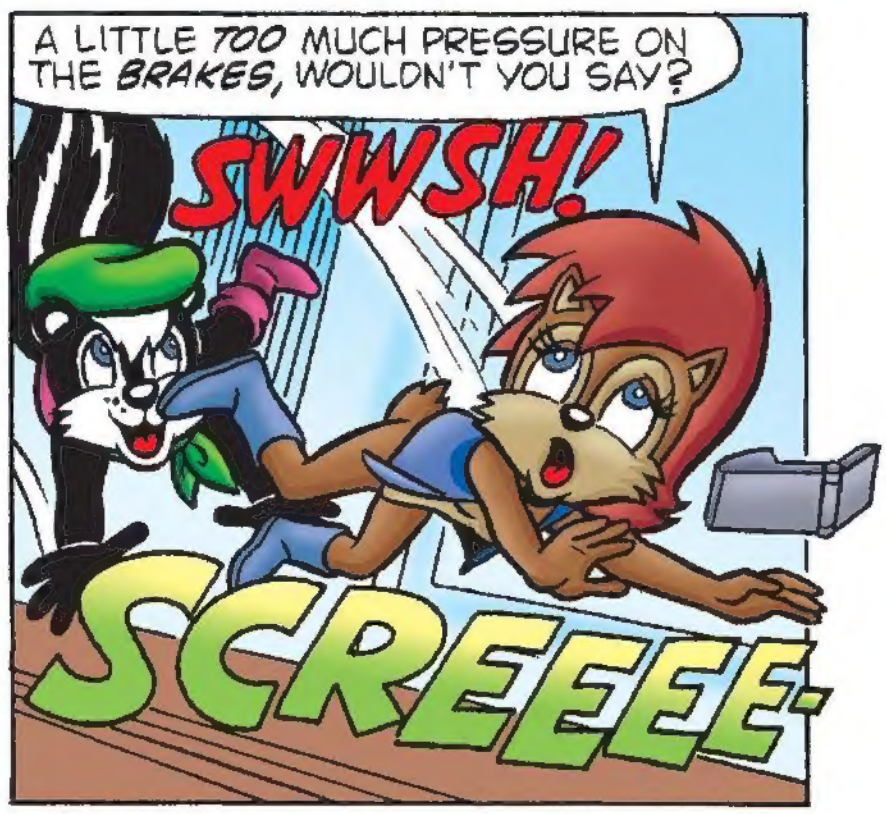

LOOK! ZERE'S SONIC!
AND EE'S WAVING TO US!
LOWER THE ROPE LADDER, ANTOINE!
WE'LL PICK HIM UP ALONG THE WAY!
R

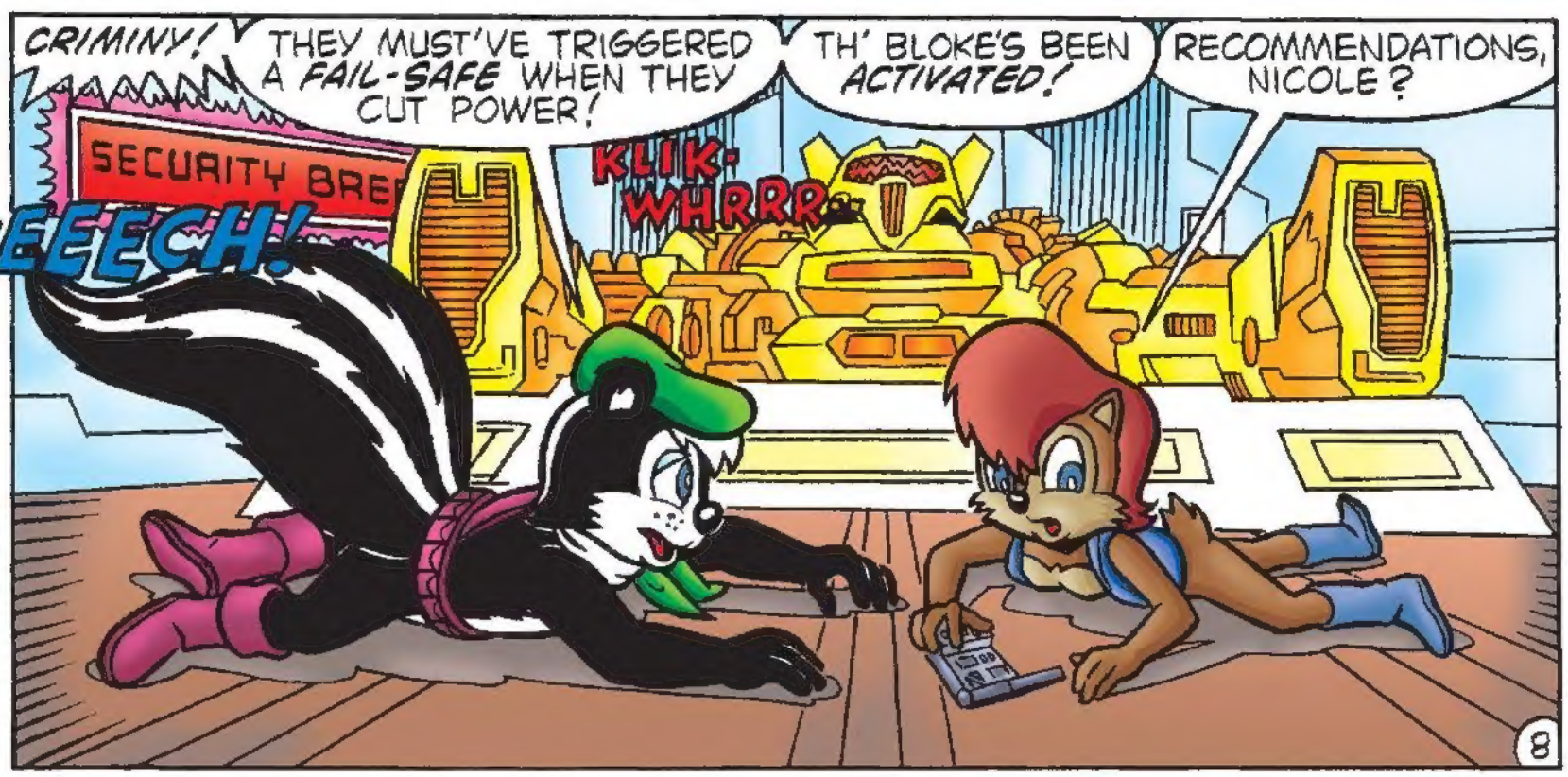

READY--SET--GRAB!
IT'S TIME TO JUICE, FELLAS!

HEY NOW! LOOKEE WHAT WE HAVE HERE!
TAKE ME IN CLOSER, 'TWAN!

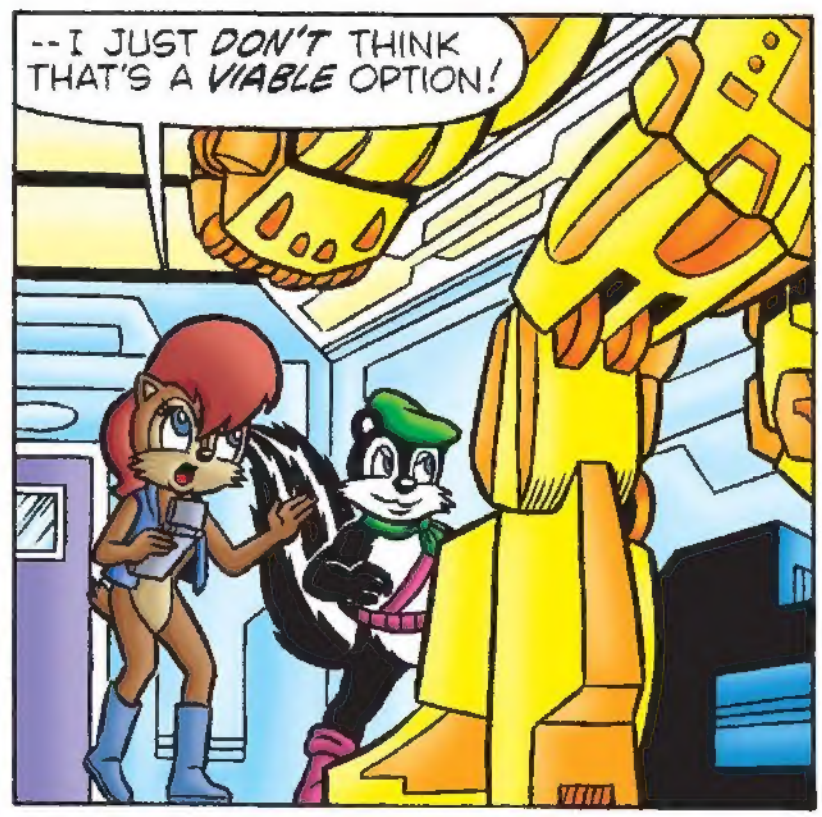
WE'RE JUST ABOUT THERE!
I'LL HAVE TO TIME MY JUMP PERFECTLY!
ARE YOU CRAZEE?!! YOU COULD GET KILLED!!

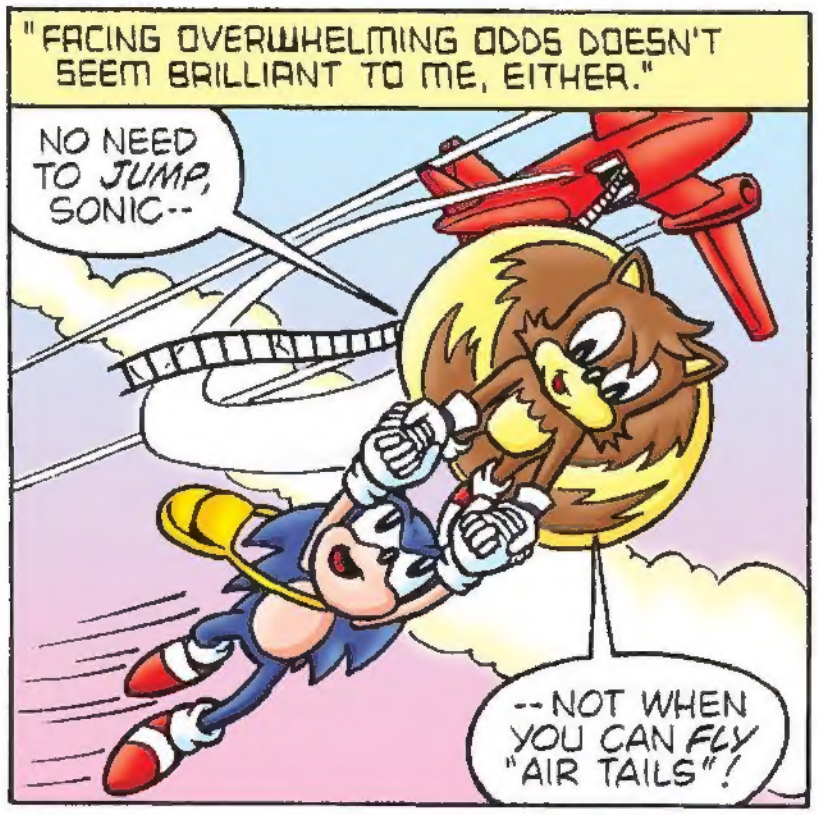
"WOULDN'T THAT MAKE ROBOTNIK'S DAY, HUH?"
BY THE WAY, GEOFFREY, WHERE ARE YOUR MEN?
THEY'RE UP FRONT--ABOUT TO STOP THE ENGINE!

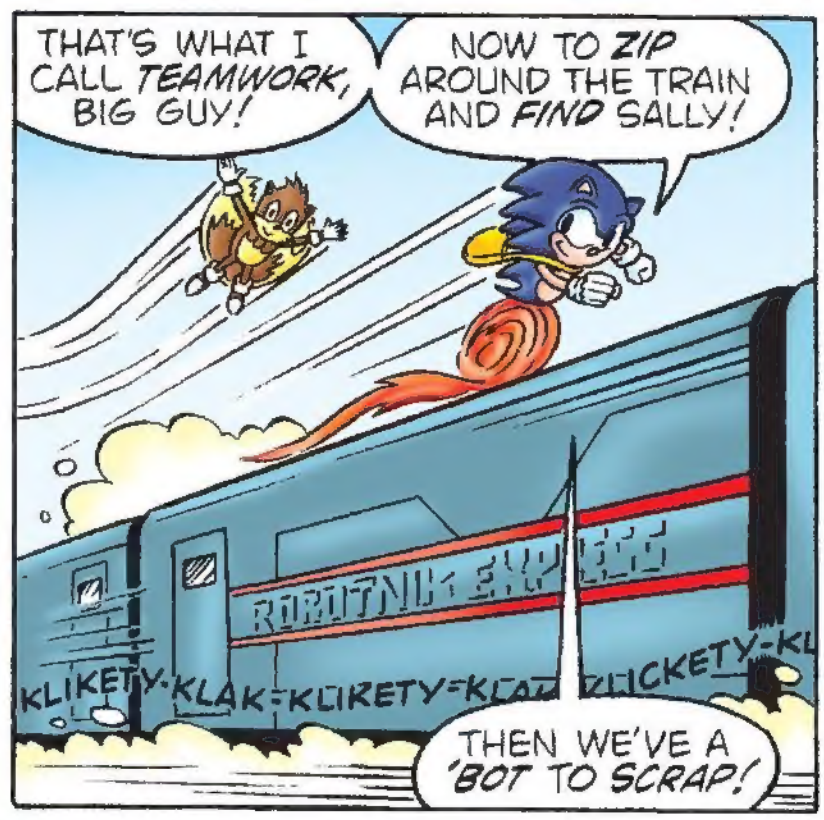

A LITTLE TOO MUCH PRESSURE ON THE BRAKES, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
SWWSH!
SCREEEE-

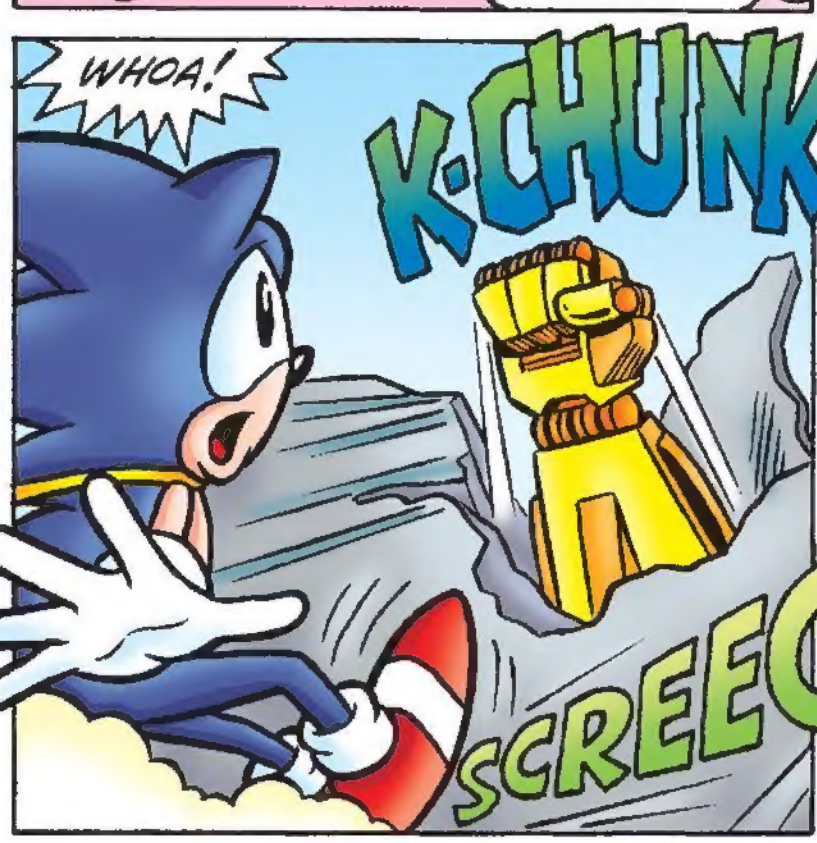

CRIMINY!
THEY MUST'VE TRIGGERED A FAIL-SAFE WHEN THEY CUT POWER!
TH' BLOKE'S BEEN ACTIVATED!
RECOMMENDATIONS, NICOLE?
SECURITY BRE
-EEECH!
KLIK-WHRRR...

I SUGGEST A STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL UNTIL SUFFICIENT BACK-UP HAS ARRIVED!
SOMEHOW, NICOLE--

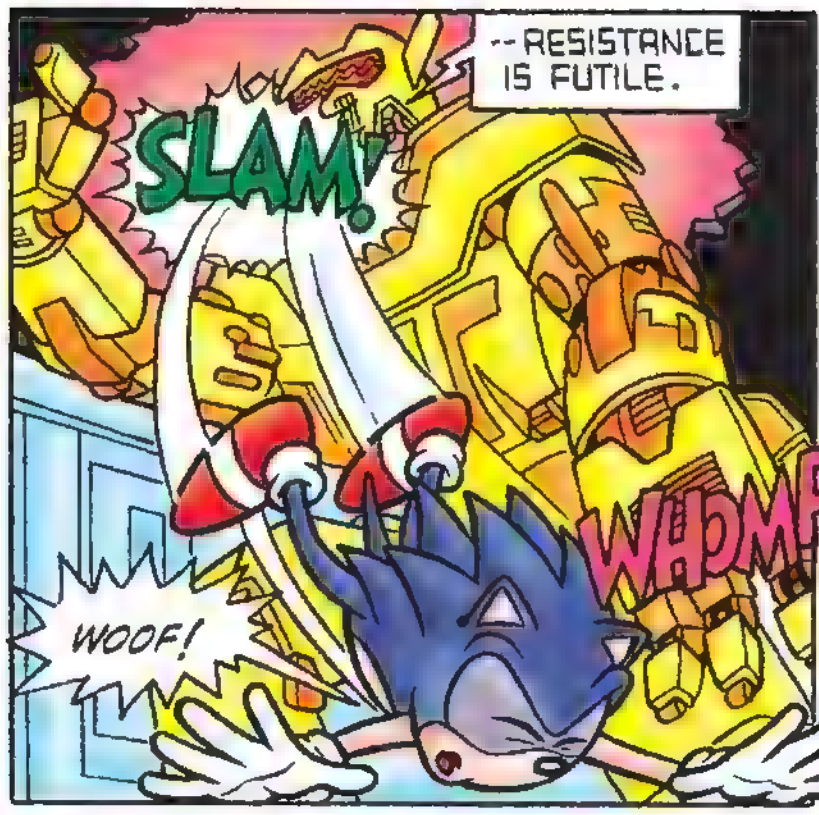

--I JUST DON'T THINK THAT'S A VIABLE OPTION!


"FACING OVERWHELMING ODDS DOESN'T SEEM BRILLIANT TO ME, EITHER."
NO NEED TO JUMP, SONIC--
--NOT WHEN YOU CAN FLY "AIR TAILS"!


THAT'S WHAT I CALL TEAMWORK, BIG GUY!
NOW TO ZIP AROUND THE TRAIN AND FIND SALLY!
KLIKETY-KLAK-KLIKETY-KLAK
THEN WE'VE A 'BOT TO SCRAP!

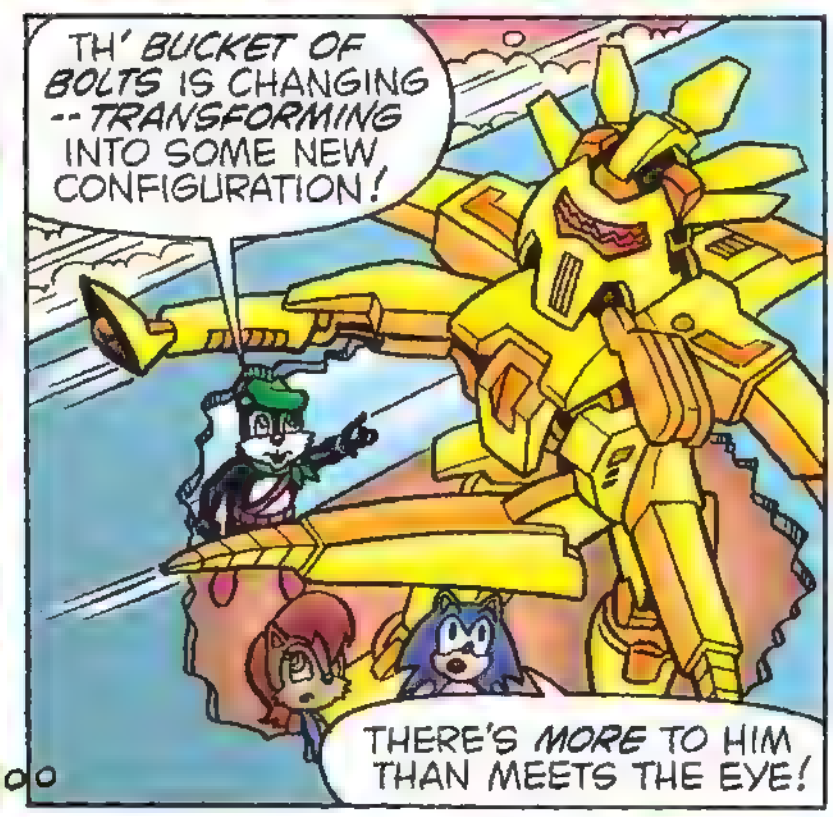

WHOA!
K-CHUNK
SCREECH!

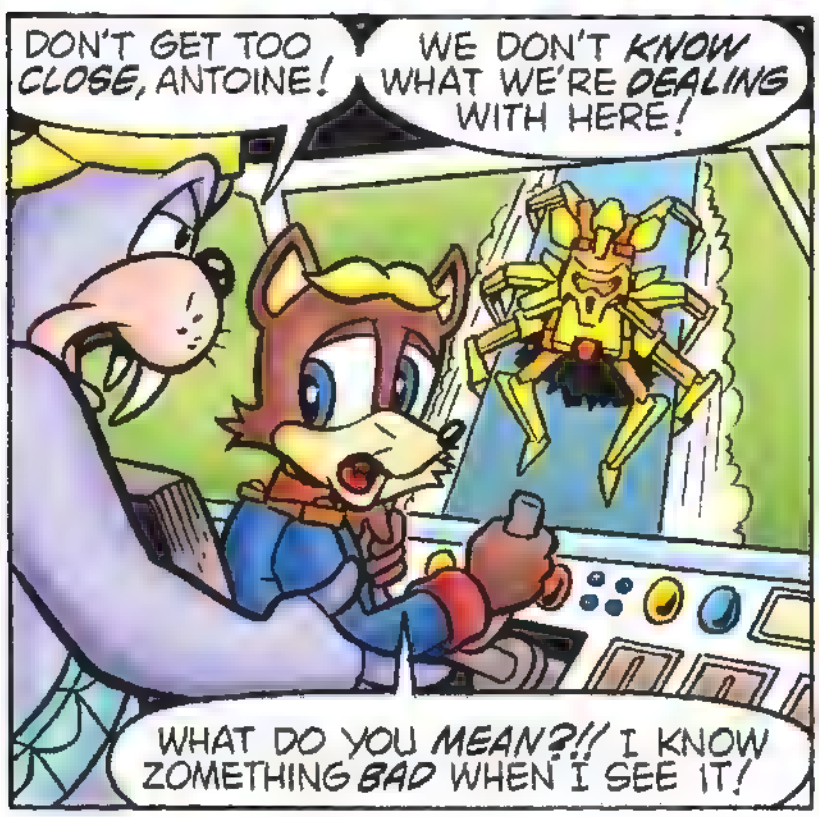
SOMETHING TELLS ME ROTOR DIDN'T TELL US EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS ONE!
HOW COME WE NEVER GET THE EASY JOBS?!
SURRENDER, HEDGEHOG--

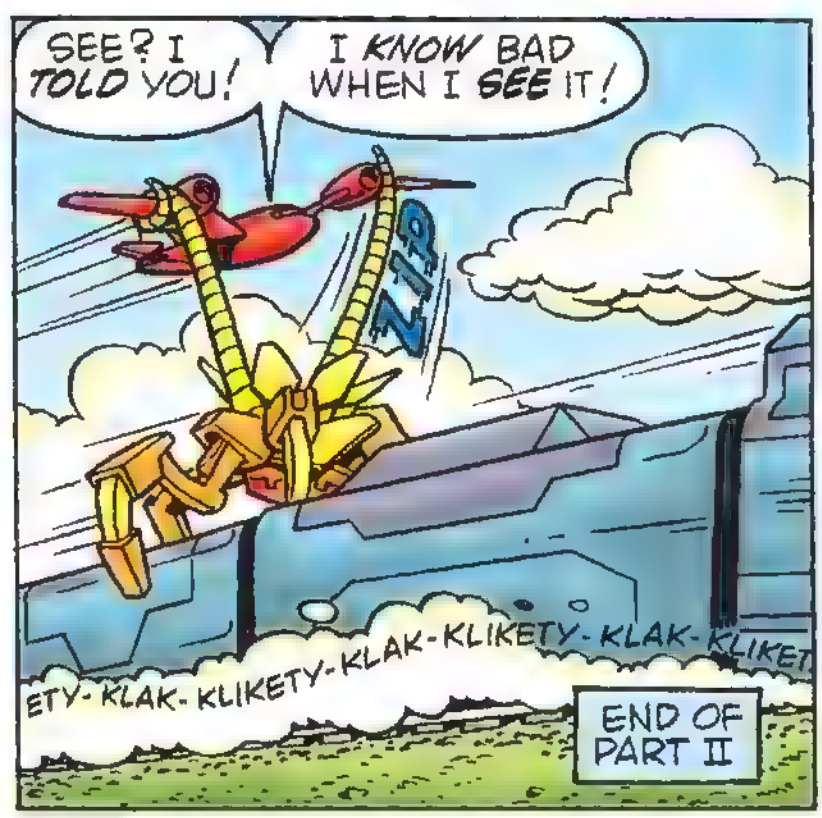

--RESISTANCE IS FUTILE.
SLAM!
WHOMP!
WOOF!

THIS JUST DOESN'T SEEM TO BE MY DAY!
SONIC!
ANOTHER TRAINEE OF YOURS, PERHAPS?

TRAINEE?!! WHO DOES--?!!
HOLD IT! WHAT'S THAT SOUND?!!
WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT!
Ka-KLIK.. Ka-KLIK-whrrrrr...


TH' BUCKET OF BOLTS IS CHANGING --TRANSFORMING INTO SOME NEW CONFIGURATION!
THERE'S MORE TO HIM THAN MEETS THE EYE!


DON'T GET TOO CLOSE, ANTOINE!
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH HERE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!! I KNOW ZOMETHING BAD WHEN I SEE IT!


SEE? I TOLD YOU!
I KNOW BAD WHEN I SEE IT!
ZIP
ETY-KLAK-KLIKETY-KLAK-KLIKETY-KLAK-KLIKET
END OF PART II

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

A RUBUT RIDES THE RAILS

PART THREE

GET BACK

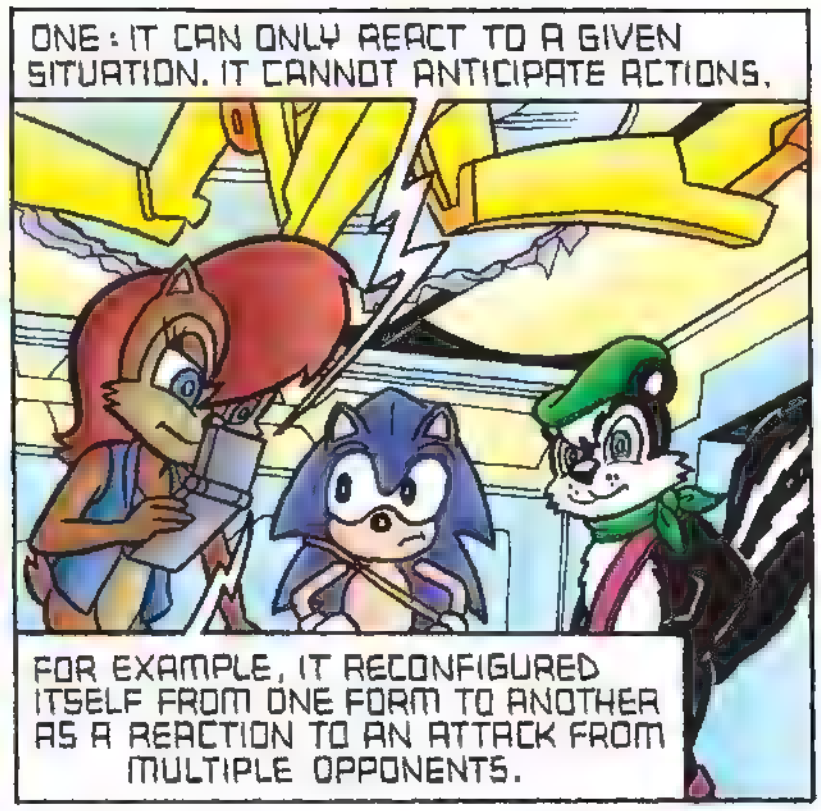
AND WATCH A *REAL PROFESSIONAL* AT WORK!

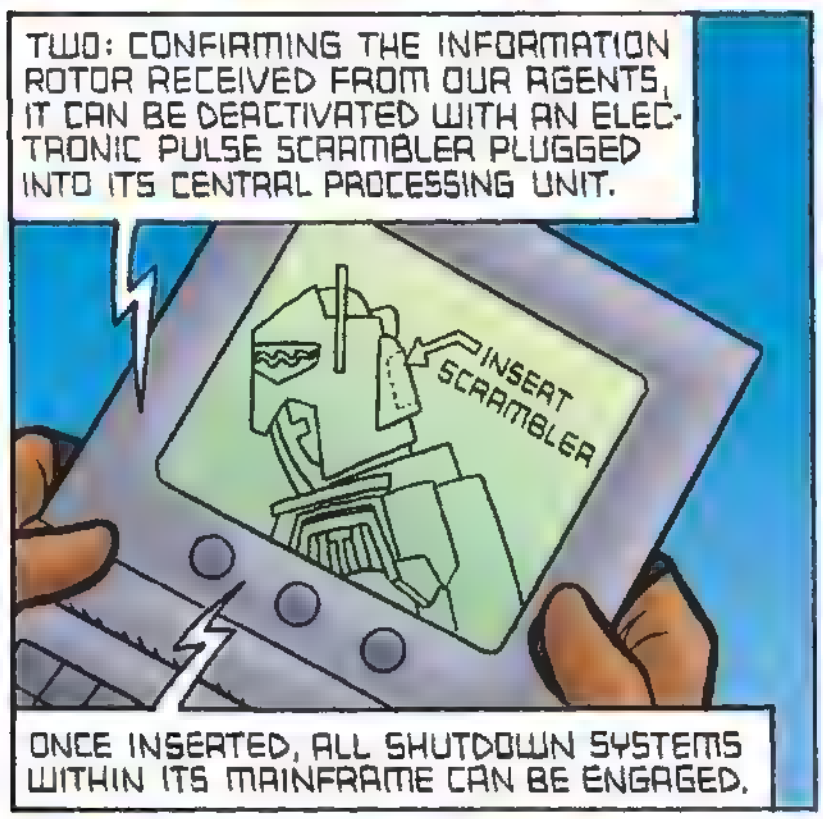
THAT'LL BE THE DAY *YOU* COULD TEACH *ME* A TRICK OR TWO, CLYDE!

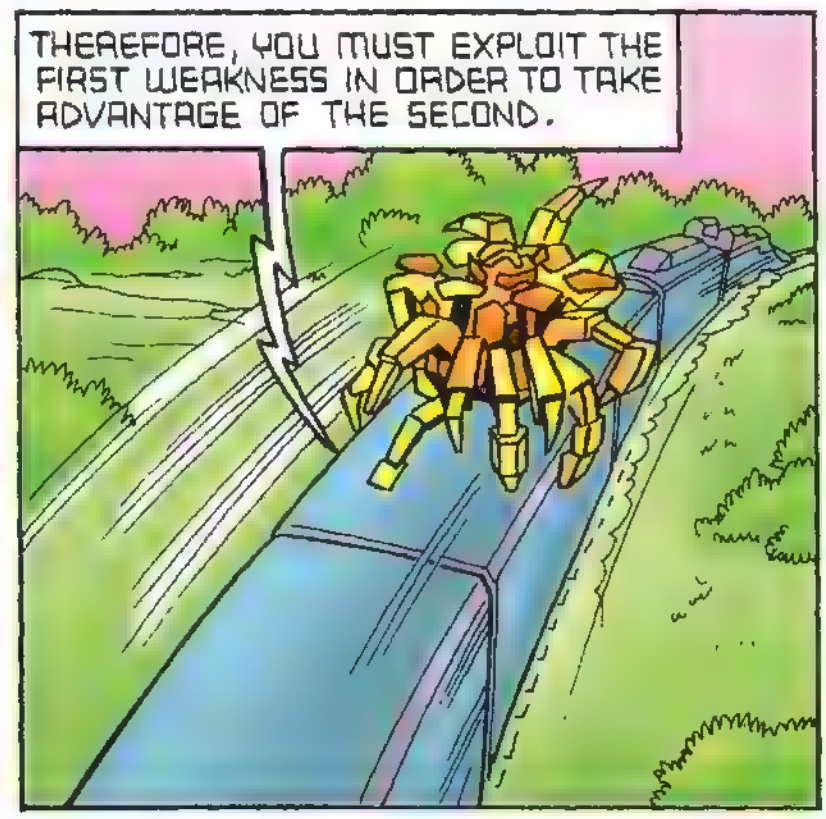
WILL THE *TWO* OF YOU JUST PUT A LID ON IT?!!

WE'VE GOT TO *SAVE* OUR FELLOW *FREEDOM FIGHTERS* FROM *DYNAMAC!*

I'M OPEN TO SUGGESTION, NICOLE!
I'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH THE FILES WE DOWNLOADED AND I'VE LEARNED THE DYNAMAC-3000 HAS TWO WEAKNESSES.


ONE: IT CAN ONLY REACT TO A GIVEN SITUATION. IT CANNOT ANTICIPATE ACTIONS.
FOR EXAMPLE, IT RECONFIGURED ITSELF FROM ONE FORM TO ANOTHER AS A REACTION TO AN ATTACK FROM MULTIPLE OPPONENTS.

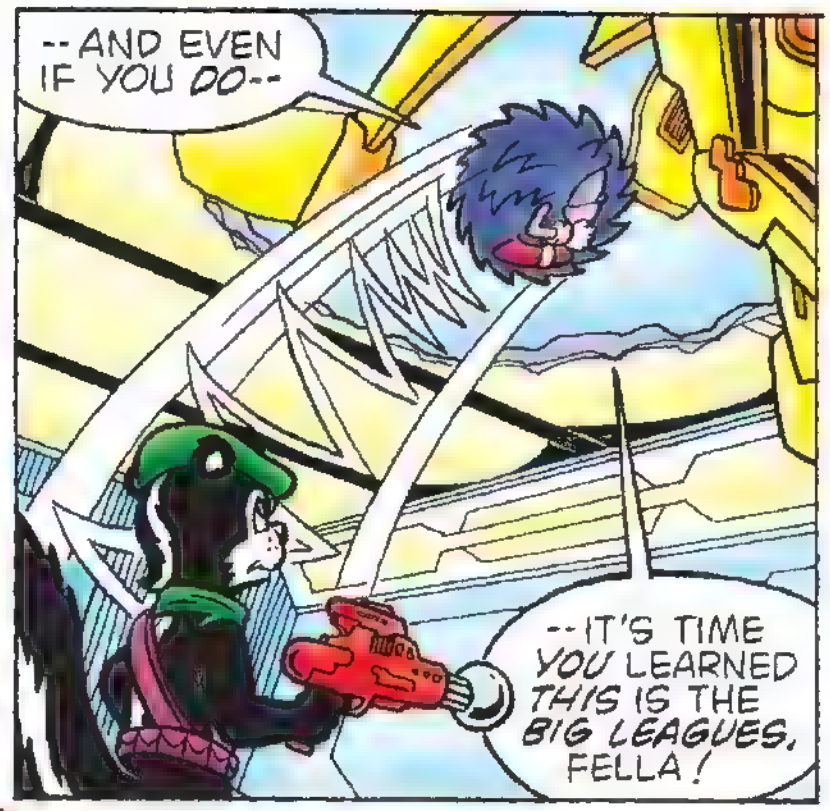

TWO: CONFIRMING THE INFORMATION ROTOR RECEIVED FROM OUR AGENTS, IT CAN BE DEACTIVATED WITH AN ELECTRONIC PULSE SCRAMBLER PLUGGED INTO ITS CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT.
INSERT SCRAMBLER
ONCE INSERTED, ALL SHUTDOWN SYSTEMS WITHIN ITS MAINFRAME CAN BE ENGAGED.

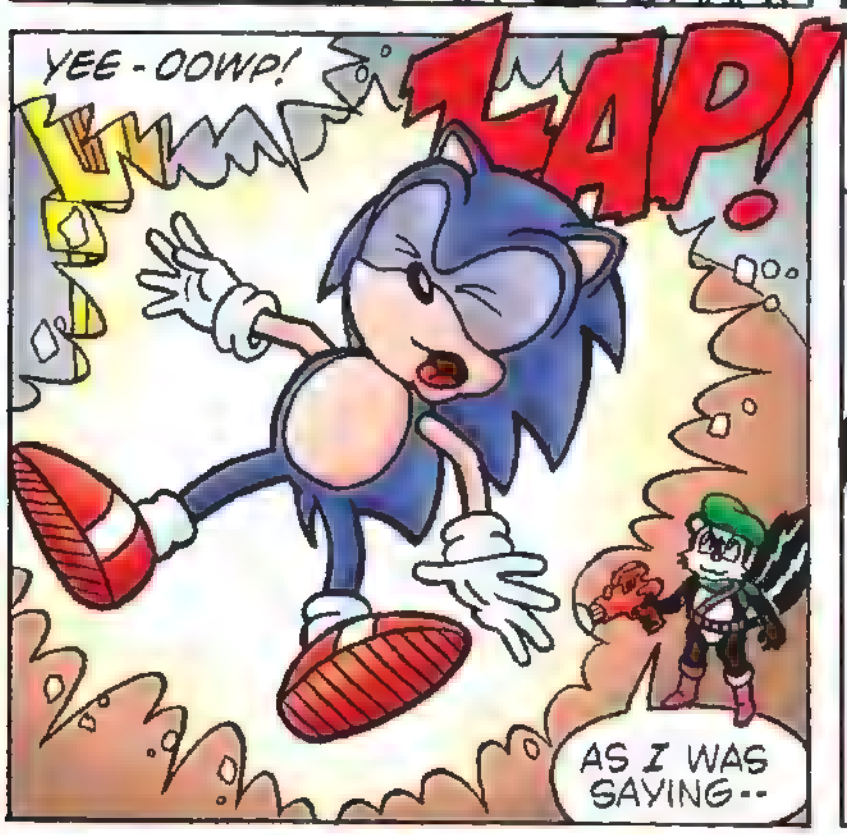

THEREFORE, YOU MUST EXPLOIT THE FIRST WEAKNESS IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SECOND.

THWIPP
HEY!

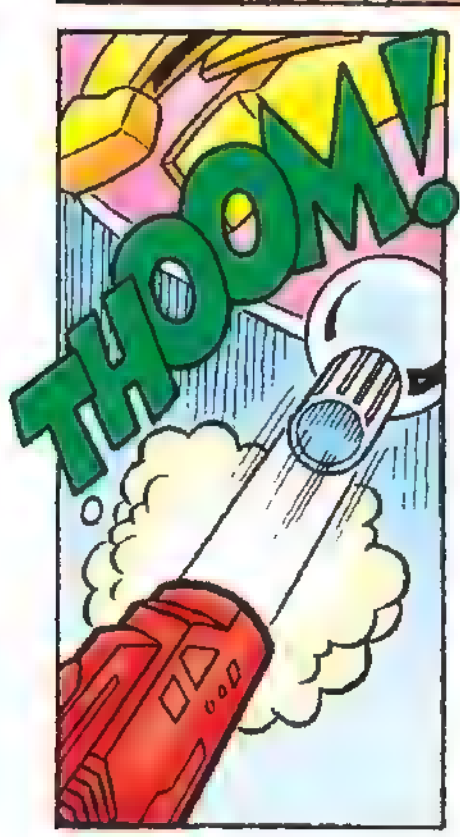
HANG ON, SAL! I'LL TAKE CARE OF TALL, GRUESOME AND SPIDERY!
MOVE OVER, MATE! YOU'RE NOT QUICK ENOUGH!

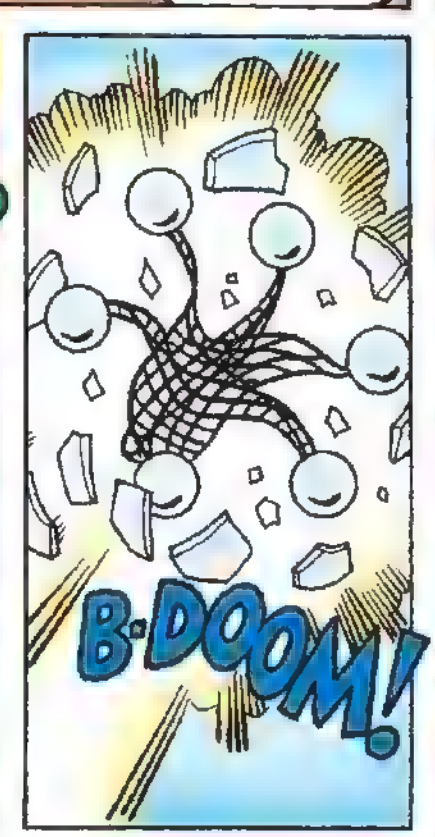
WHAT'S NEEDED HERE IS MORE ACTION, LESS TALK!
WELL, IF YOU DON'T MIND--

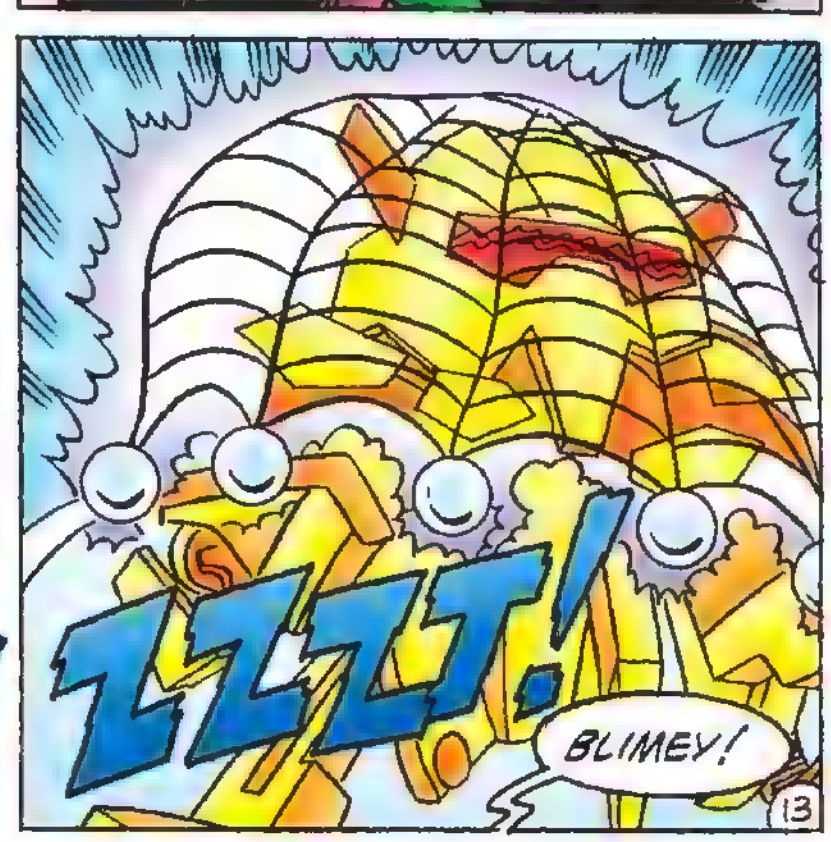

--AND EVEN IF YOU DO--
--IT'S TIME YOU LEARNED THIS IS THE BIG LEAGUES, FELLA!


YEE-OOWP!
LAP!
AS I WAS SAYING--

NEVER SEND A PUP TO DO A GROWNUP'S JOB!

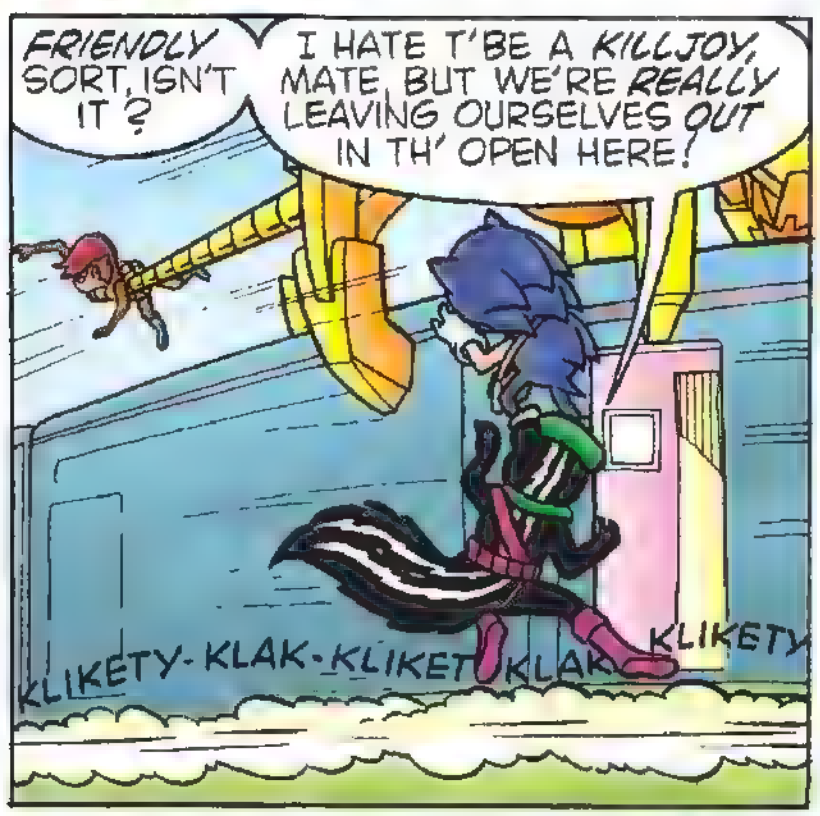

THOOM!


B-DOOM!

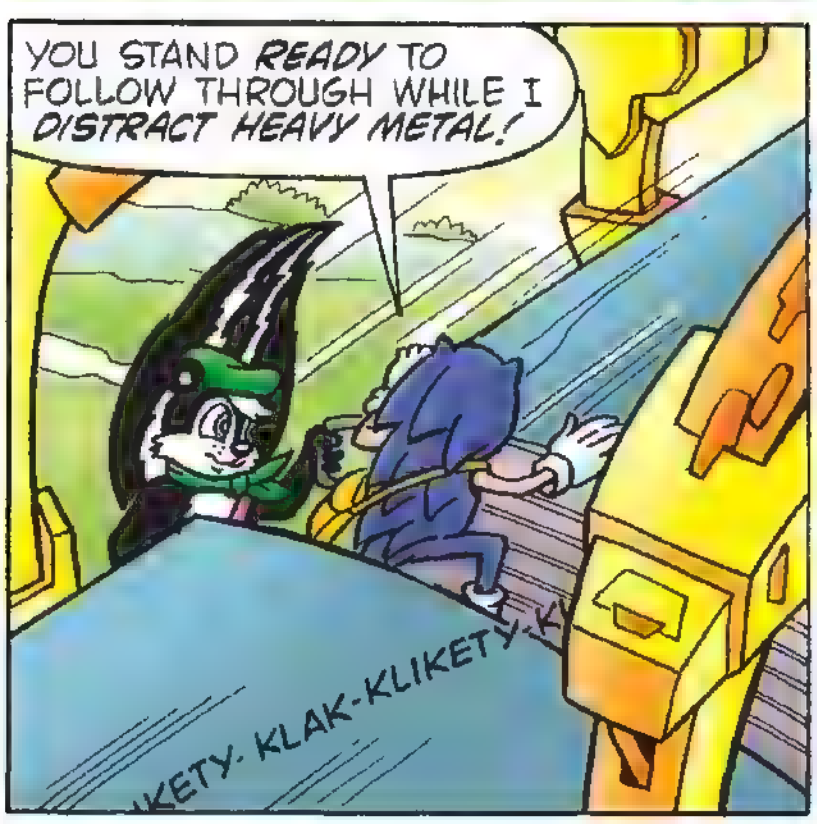

ZZZZT!
BLIMEY!

THE BOLAS DIDN'T PACK ENOUGH JUICE!
WE NEED SOMETHING WITH A STRONGER CHARGE!
DON'T HAVE THE SAME GET-UP-'N'-GO THAT SOME OF US HAVE, EH?

UH-OH!
I DON'T THINK IT'S TOO HAPPY WITH US!
CHUNK!
WE NEED TO GET TO THE ROOF!

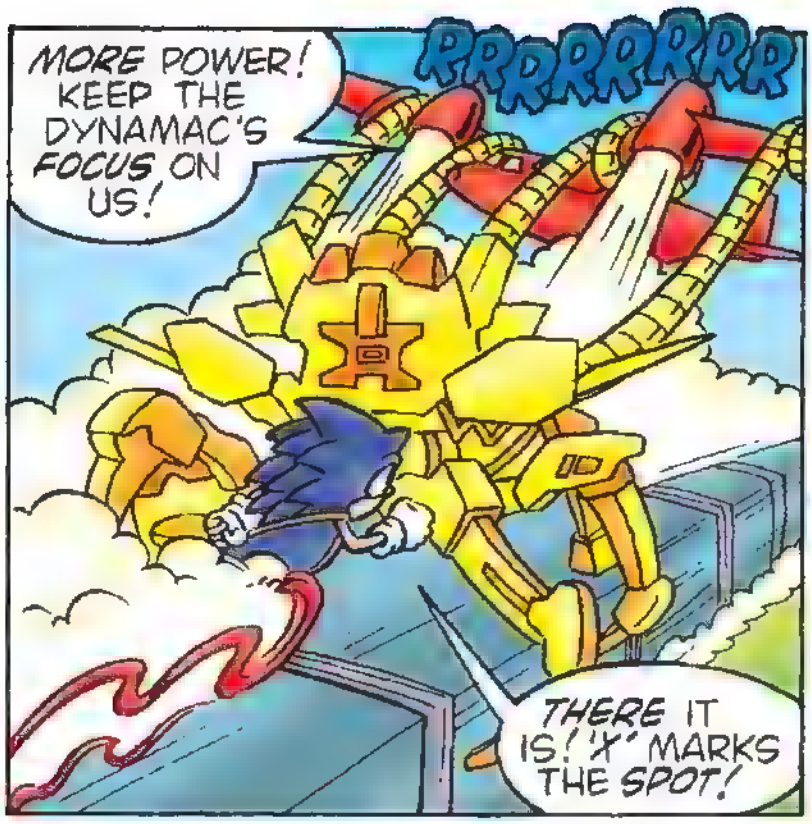

FRIENDLY SORT, ISN'T IT?
I HATE T'BE A KILLJOY, MATE, BUT WE'RE REALLY LEAVING OURSELVES OUT IN TH' OPEN HERE!
KLIKETY-KLAK-KLIKETY-KLAK-KLIKETY

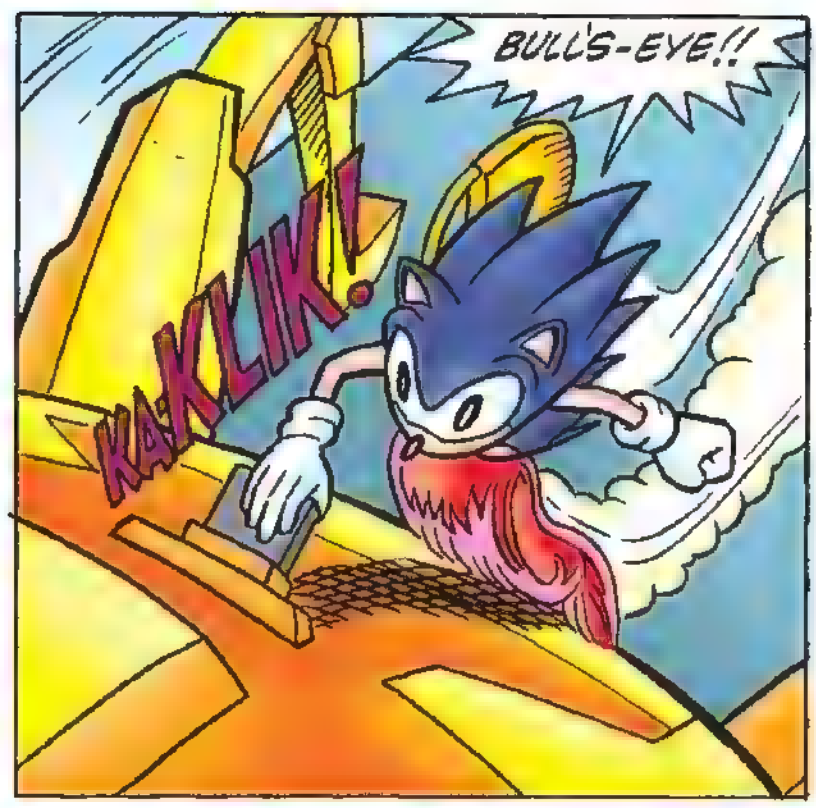
IN MY KNAPSACK IS SOMETHING ROTOR ANTICIPATED WE'D NEED!
THIS LITTLE DOOHICKEY SHOULD SCRAMBLE THAT 'BOT'S ELECTRONICS, AND RATTLE HIM BIG TIME!


YOU STAND READY TO FOLLOW THROUGH WHILE I DISTRACT HEAVY METAL!
KLIKETY-KLAK-KLIKETY-K

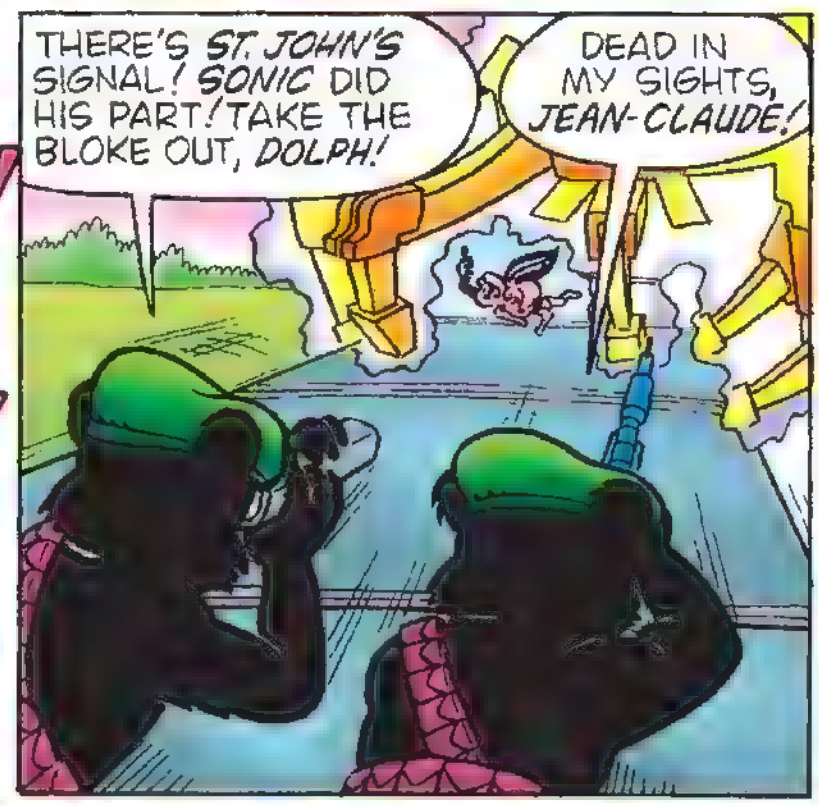
BOINK!
LET'S SEE IF THE DYNAMAC CAN PLAY SPINBALL MY WAY!

GUESS NOT!
THEN AGAIN, NOT EVERYONE CAN!
SNAP!
FANCY MEETING YOU HERE, PRINCESS!
NOT SURE IF SAL HAS GONE FROM THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE--
--BUT IT'S A NO BRAINER THAT I HAVE!
"C'MON, ROTOR! I COULD USE A NEW TRICK ABOUT NOW!"
REMEMBER THOSE MODIFICATIONS I MENTIONED EARLIER, ANTOINE?
OUI, MON AMI!
BRACE YOURSELVES, EVERYONE!
MOVE THE 'CONVERT' SWITCH FROM HORIZONTAL TO VERTICAL FLIGHT--
--ALLOWING US TO DRAW ATTENTION AWAY FROM SONIC!
NOW ACCELERATE ON THE THRUSTERS, ANTOINE!
RRRROAR

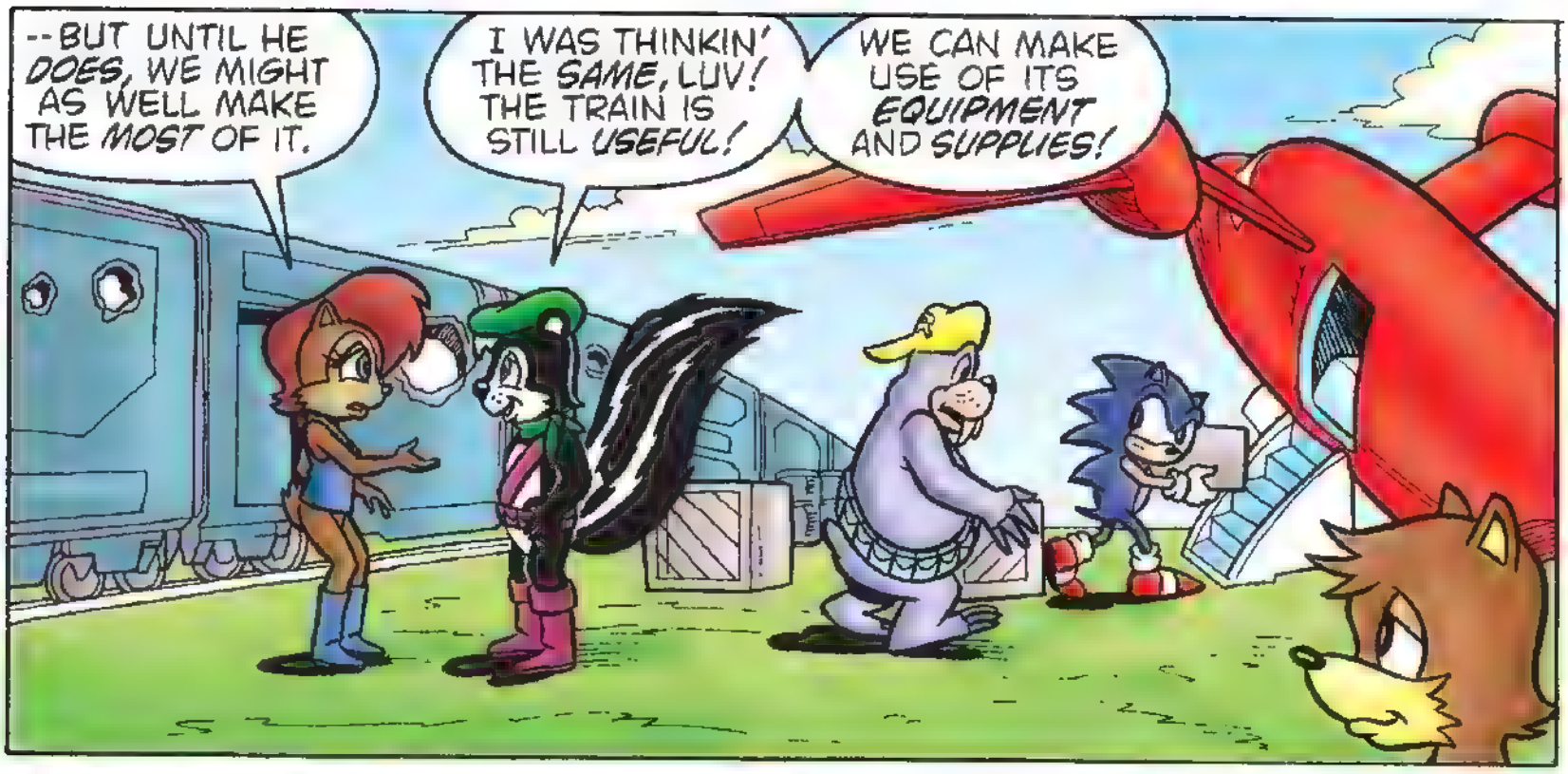

MORE POWER! KEEP THE DYNAMAC'S FOCUS ON US!
RRRRRRRRR
THERE IT IS! 'X' MARKS THE SPOT!


BULL'S-EYE!!
KA-KLIK!

I WISH I COULD SAY I'M SORRY TO HIT'N'RUN--
LLLLL!
LLLLL!
--BUT SOMEHOW, I DON'T THINK YOU'D BUY THAT!

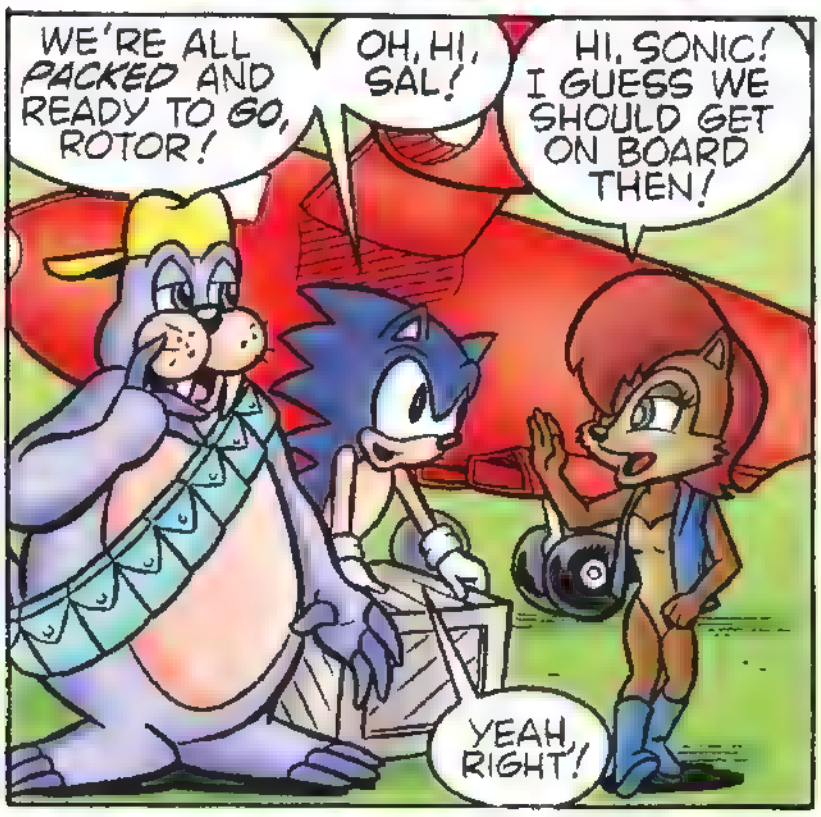

THERE'S ST. JOHN'S SIGNAL! SONIC DID HIS PART! TAKE THE BLOKE OUT, DOLPH!
DEAD IN MY SIGHTS, JEAN-CLAUDE!

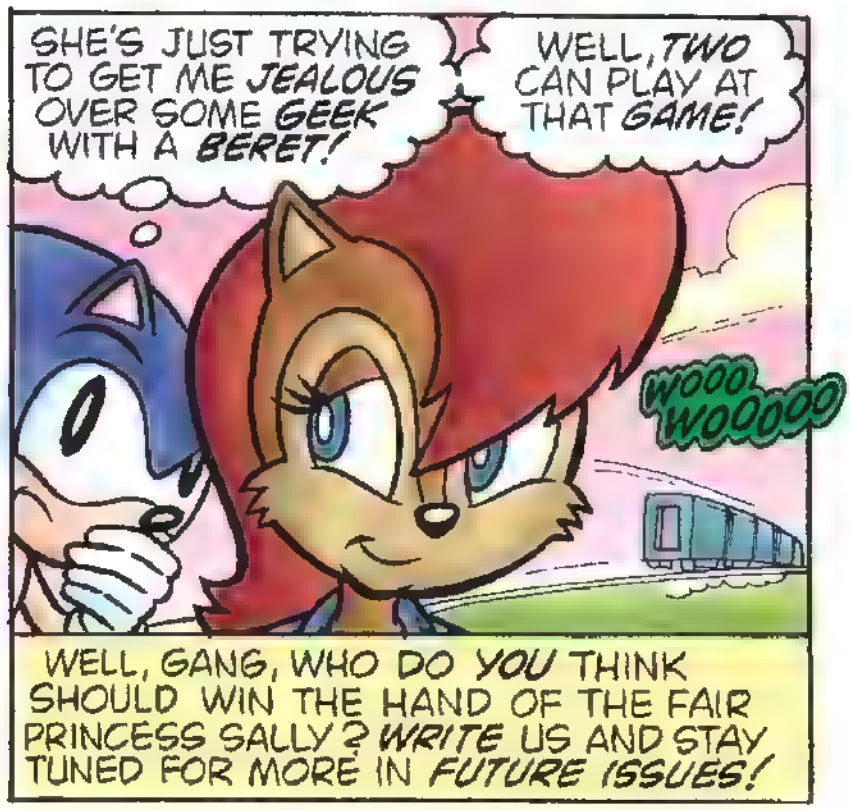
KER-BLAM!!
"IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE ROBOTNIK DISCOVERS HE'S LOST ANOTHER ONE--"


--BUT UNTIL HE DOES, WE MIGHT AS WELL MAKE THE MOST OF IT.
I WAS THINKIN' THE SAME, LUV! THE TRAIN IS STILL USEFUL!
WE CAN MAKE USE OF ITS EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES!

UNTIL NEXT TIME, PRINCESS..!

I DON'T THINK SONIC IS GONNA LIKE THIS!
I FAIL TO SEE WHAT SHE SEES IN ZAT COMMONAIR!
HER TASTE IN ZE MEN, IT LEAVES A LOT TO BE DÉSIRED!


WE'RE ALL PACKED AND READY TO GO, ROTOR!
OH, HI, SAL!
HI, SONIC! I GUESS WE SHOULD GET ON BOARD THEN!
YEAH, RIGHT!


SHE'S JUST TRYING TO GET ME JEALOUS OVER SOME GEEK WITH A BERET!
WELL, TWO CAN PLAY AT THAT GAME!
WOOO WOOOOO
WELL, GANG, WHO DO YOU THINK SHOULD WIN THE HAND OF THE FAIR PRINCESS SALLY? WRITE US AND STAY TUNED FOR MORE IN FUTURE ISSUES!

SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS

KNUCKLES™

LOST... AND FOUND!

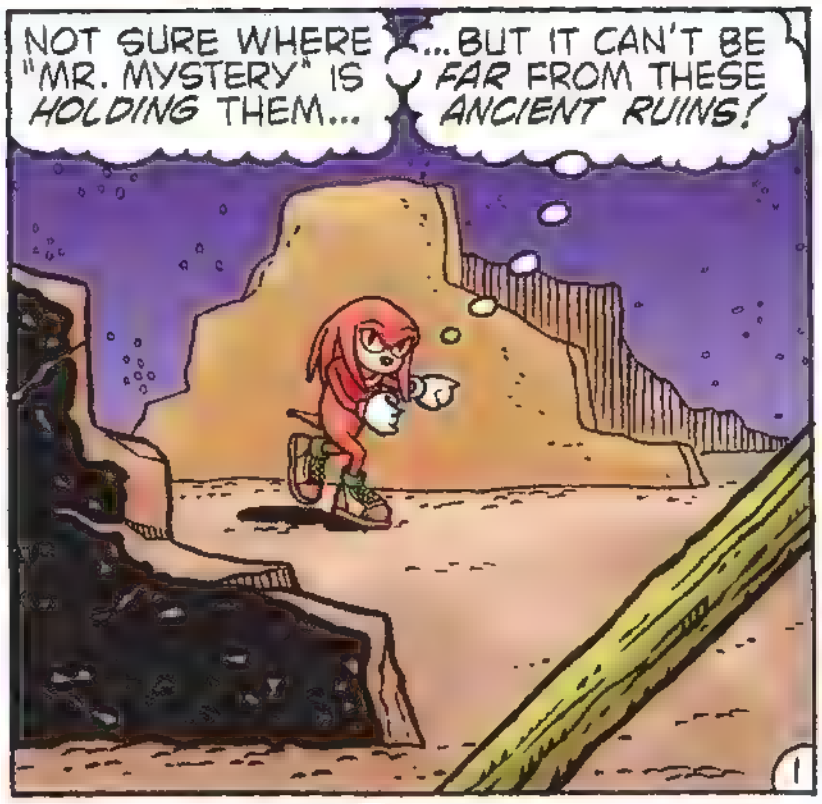
PART 1

CHARMY... ESPIO... MIGHTY... VECTOR...

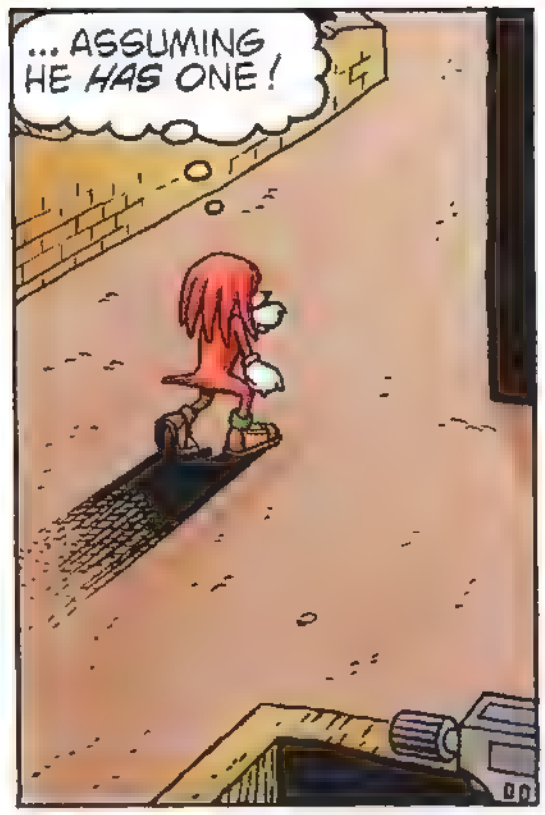
THE CHAOTIX ARE MISSING...

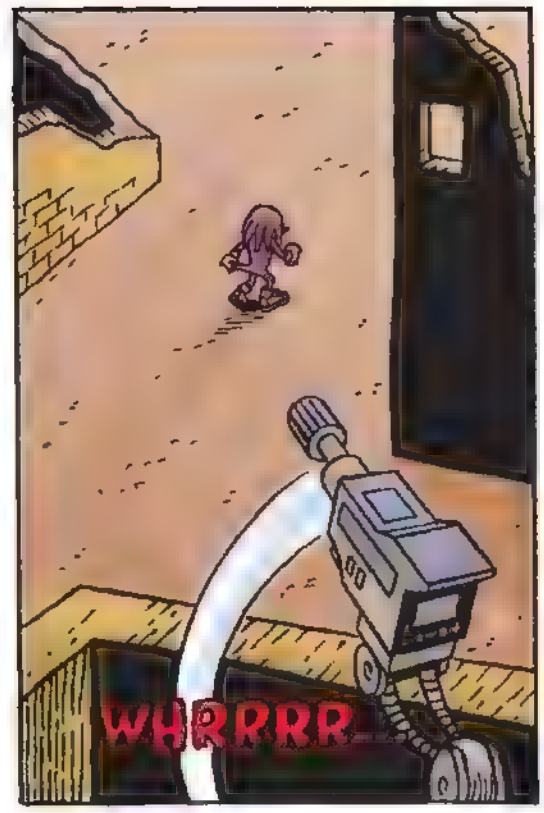
...AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT!

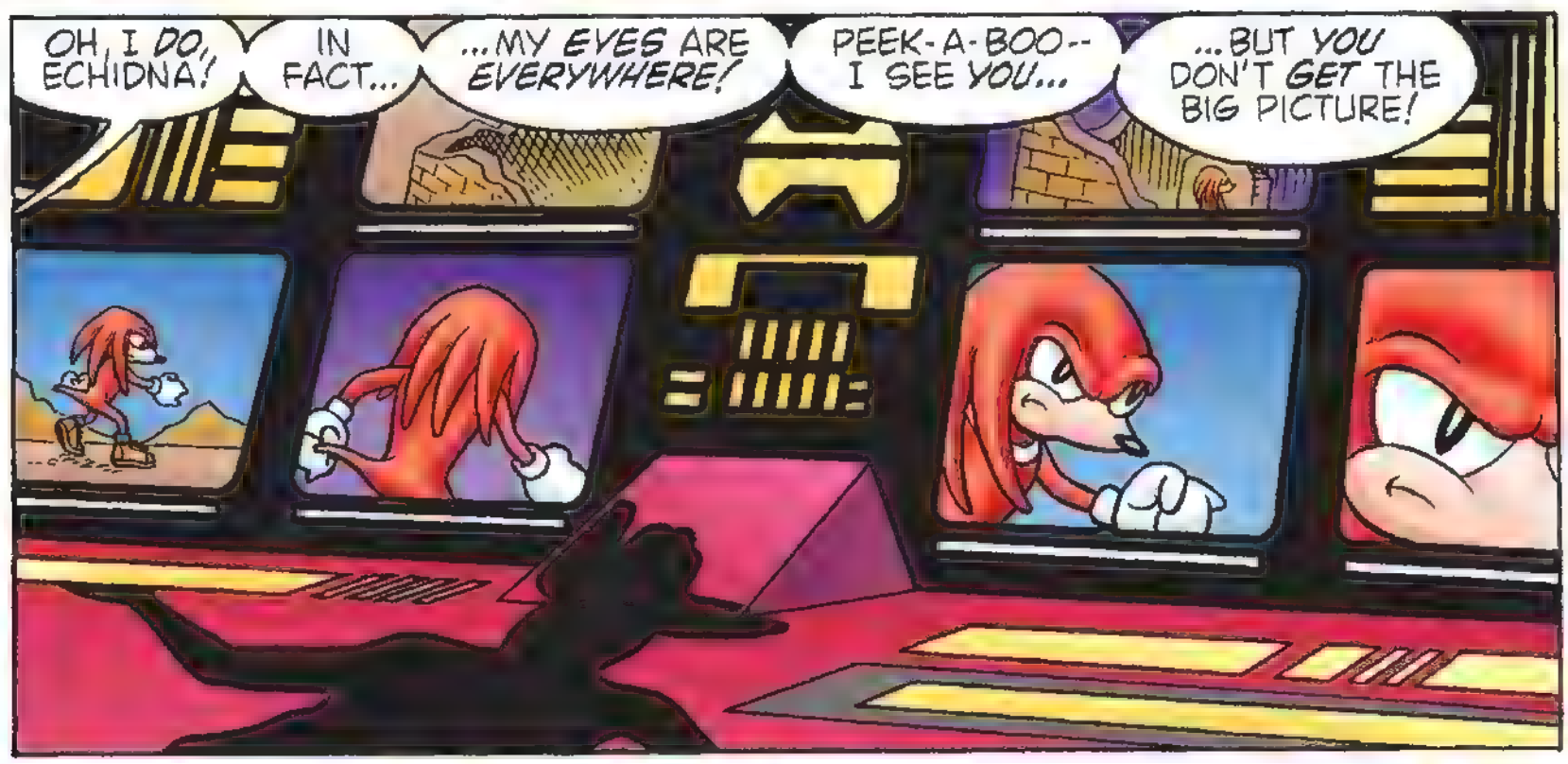
SCRIPT: MIKE KANTEROVICH & KEN PENDERS
PENCILS: KEN PENDERS
INKS: JON D'AGOSTINO



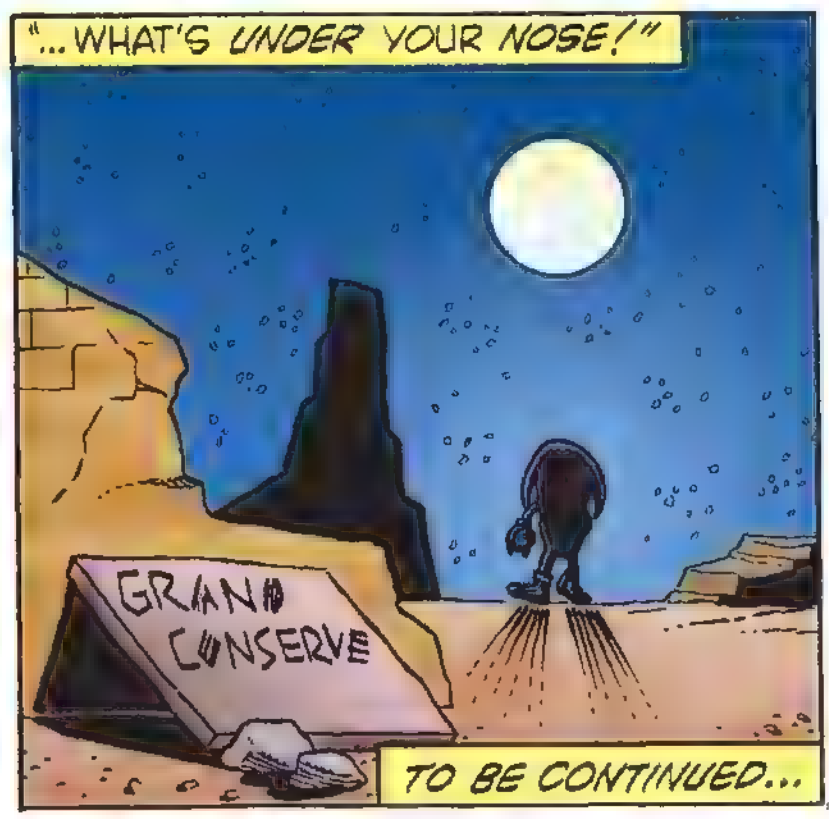
HE'S PROBABLY LURKING IN THE SHADOWS--LAUGHING HIS FOOL HEAD OFF...


...ASSUMING HE HAS ONE!


WHRRRR


OH, I DO, ECHIDNA!
IN FACT...
...MY EYES ARE EVERYWHERE!
PEEK-A-BOO--I SEE YOU...
...BUT YOU DON'T GET THE BIG PICTURE!

"CAN'T EVEN SEE...

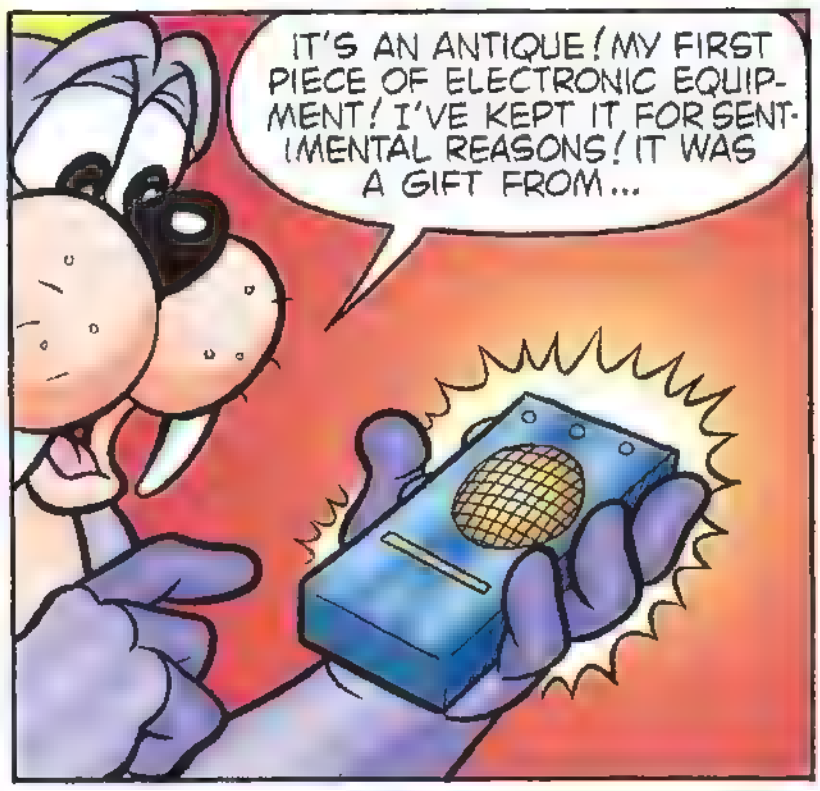

"...WHAT'S UNDER YOUR NOSE!"
GRAND CONSERVE
TO BE CONTINUED...

ROTOR! in Tundra ROAD
-PART ONE-
HMM? HUH? WHO--
AAAAAIEE!
SCRIPT: MIKE GALLAGHER
PENCILS: ART MAWHINNEY
INKS: RICH KOSLOWSKI

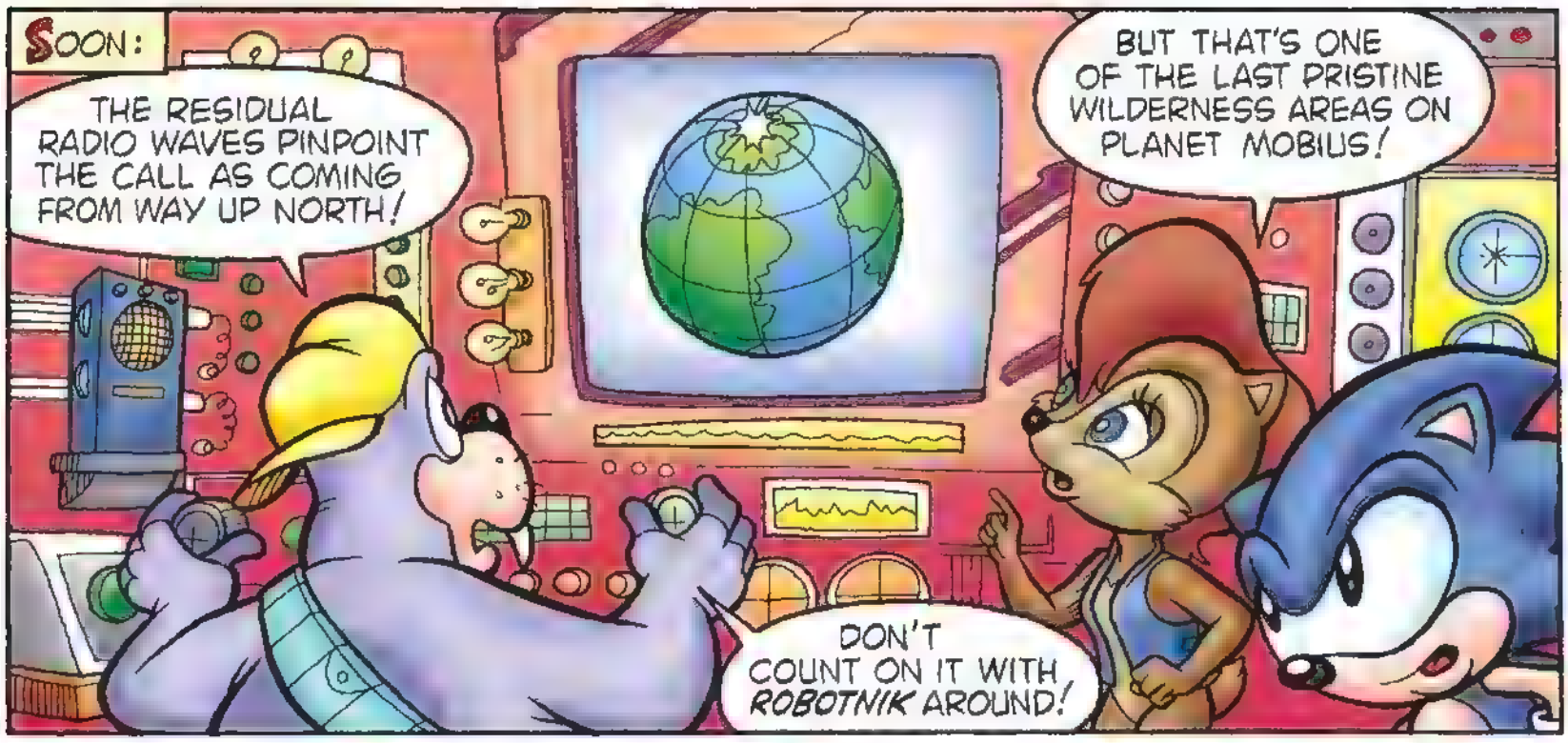
HOLY ABALONE! I MUST'VE BEEN DREAMING! FOR A SECOND, I THOUGHT --
NOK? NOK!

YES?.. SONIC! SALLY!
SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, BIG GUY--
WE HEARD A SCREAM... ARE YOU OKAY?

OH...THAT! I GUESS I HAD A NIGHTMARE! I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING FROM THIS OLD RADIO, BUT IT HASN'T WORKED FOR *YEARS!*
WHY NOT?


IT'S AN ANTIQUE! MY FIRST PIECE OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT! I'VE KEPT IT FOR SENTIMENTAL REASONS! IT WAS A GIFT FROM...

ROTOR! HELP US!
MY MOM! THAT'S HER VOICE!
HUH? I THOUGHT SHE LIVED IN THE FROZEN NORTH SEA!
SOMETHING'S UP! LET'S GET TO THE LAB!


SOON:
THE RESIDUAL RADIO WAVES PINPOINT THE CALL AS COMING FROM WAY UP NORTH!
BUT THAT'S ONE OF THE LAST PRISTINE WILDERNESS AREAS ON PLANET MOBIUS!
DON'T COUNT ON IT WITH *ROBOTNIK* AROUND!

PRINCESS SALLY... REQUEST PERMIS--
NO NEED TO BE FORMAL, ROTOR... GO WITH MY BLESSING!

NO PROBLEMO, OLD BUDDY... WITH THE OLD BLUE BLUR AT YOUR SIDE, THERE'LL BE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT...
?

SORRY, PAL... I APPRECIATE THE OFFER, BUT THIS IS FAMILY BUSINESS!
Homina, Homina, Homina Homina- HUH?

SALLY...
DING!
ELEVATOR
YOU HEARD THE MAN, SONIC... THIS IS SOMETHING HE'S GOTTA DO...

"...ALONE!"

SUB AQUIFER AIRLOCK

I HAVEN'T USED MY *BATHYSPHERE* IN A LONG TIME* BUT IT'S THE FASTEST WAY FOR ME TO GO... *HOME!*

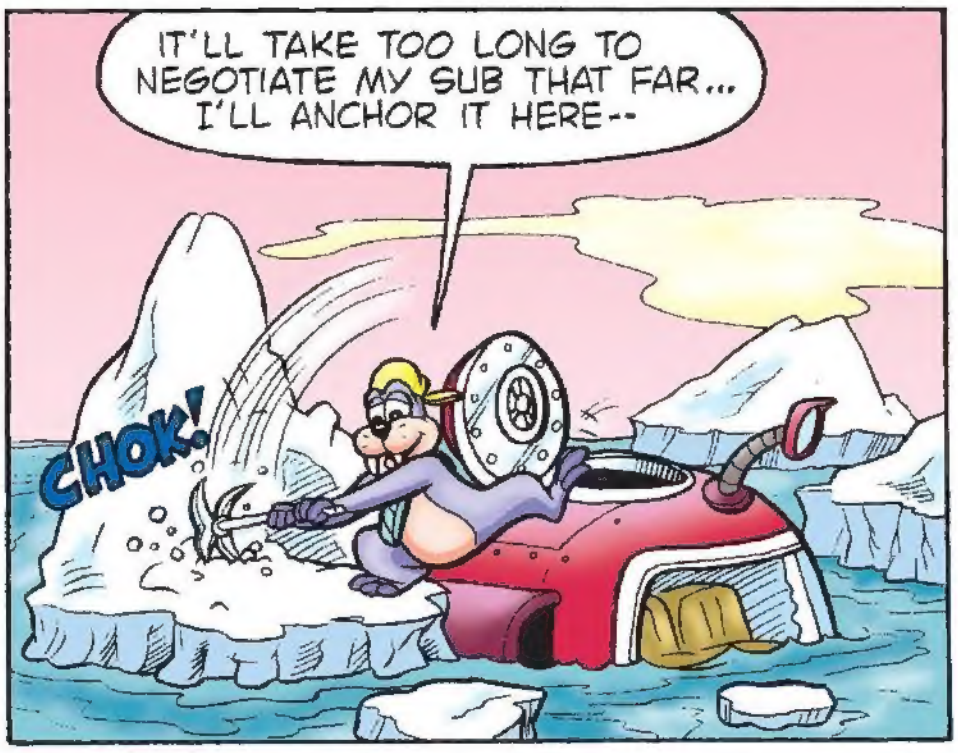
*NOT SINCE SONIC LTD. SERIES #1 -- *Editor*

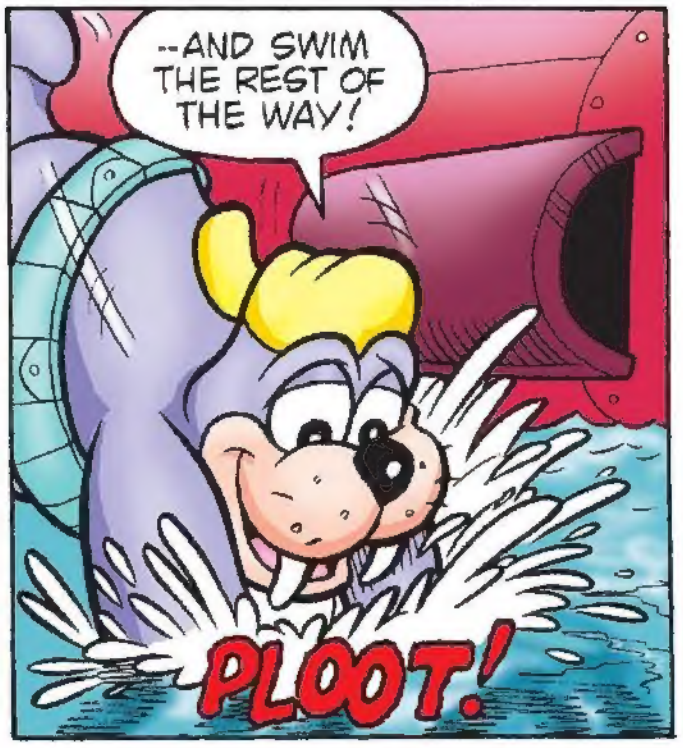
USING HIS INSTINCTIVE NAVIGATION SKILL, ROTOR STEERS HIS SUBMERSIBLE CRAFT THROUGH AN INTRICATE MAZE KNOWN AS THE *UNDERSEA CANAL GRID**... WEAVING HIS WAY TO--

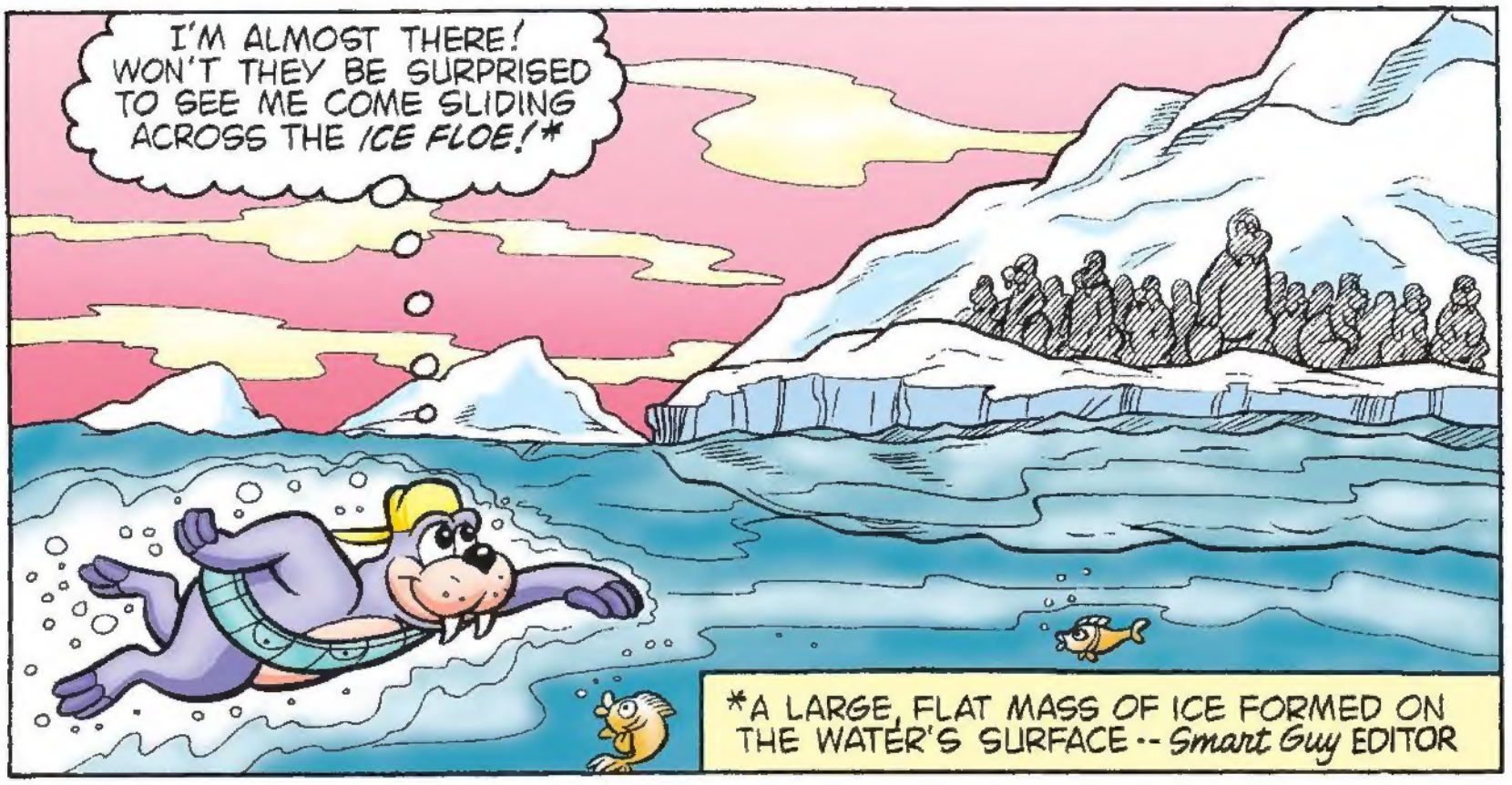
*GIVE IT A TRY-- *Editor*

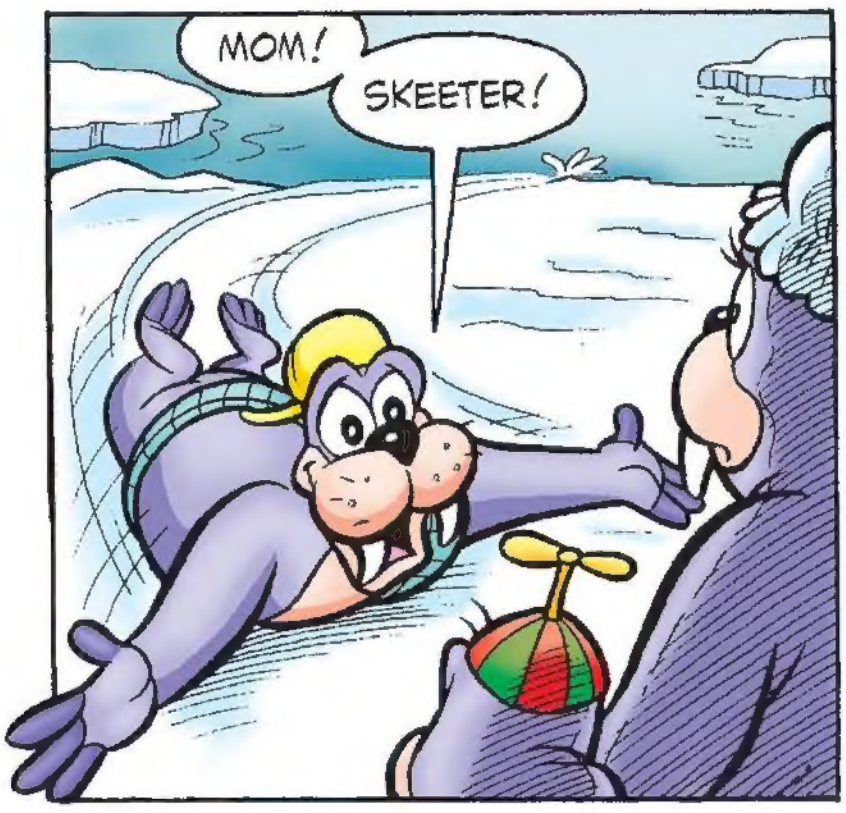
--THE *FROZEN NORTH SEA!* JUST AS I REMEMBERED IT! MOM AND MY BABY BROTHER *SKEETER* LIVE WITH THE MAIN HERD JUST BEYOND THAT CLOT OF ICEBERGS!

KBOOSH!

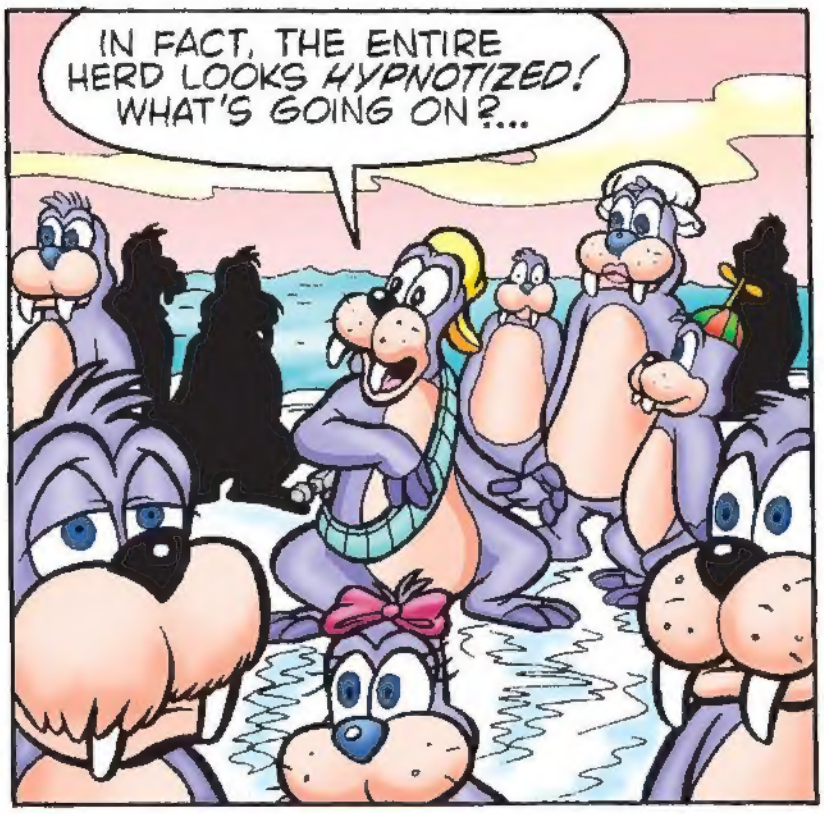

IT'LL TAKE TOO LONG TO NEGOTIATE MY SUB THAT FAR... I'LL ANCHOR IT HERE--
CHOK!


--AND SWIM THE REST OF THE WAY!
PLOOT!

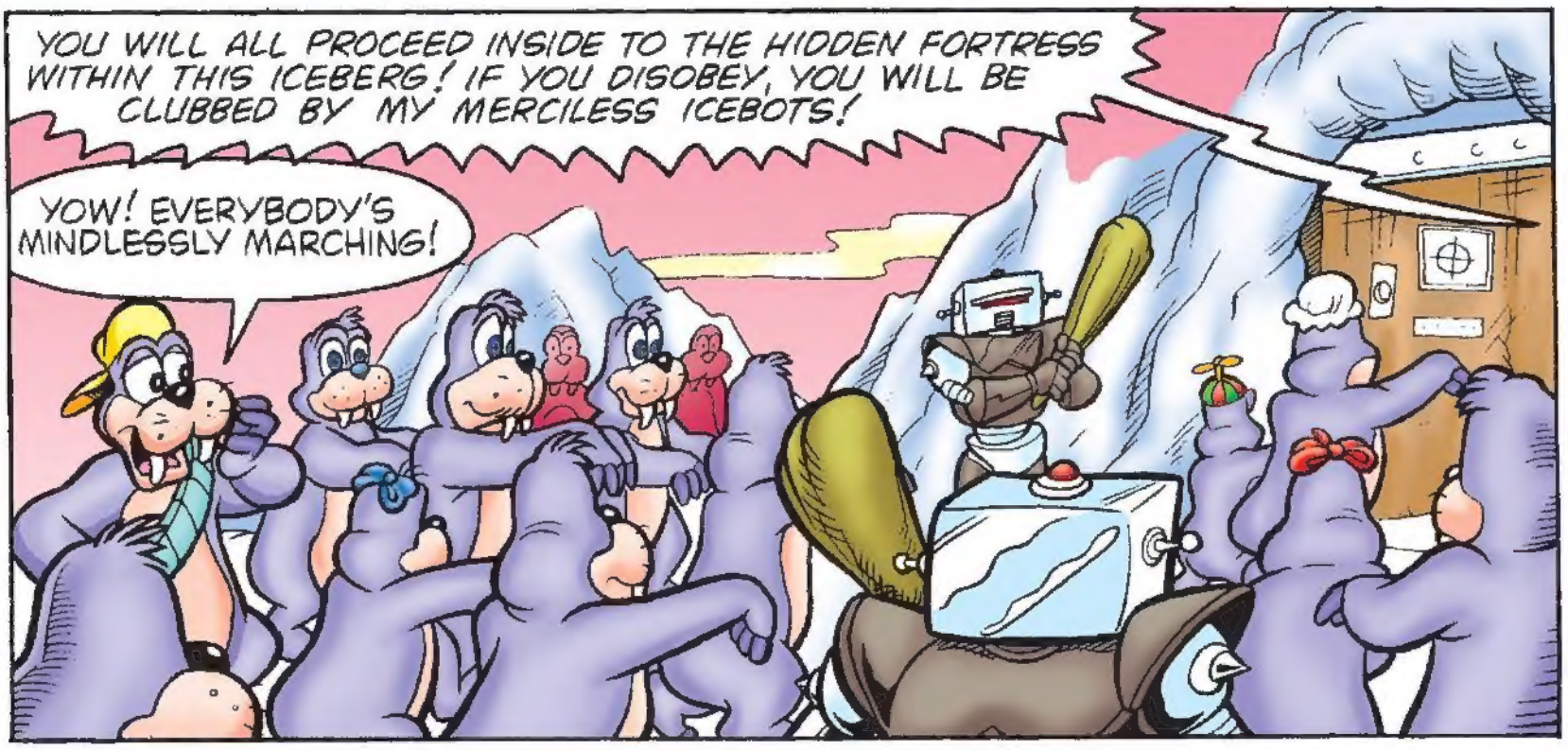

I'M ALMOST THERE! WON'T THEY BE SURPRISED TO SEE ME COME SLIDING ACROSS THE *ICE FLOE!*
*A LARGE, FLAT MASS OF ICE FORMED ON THE WATER'S SURFACE -- *Smart Guy* EDITOR

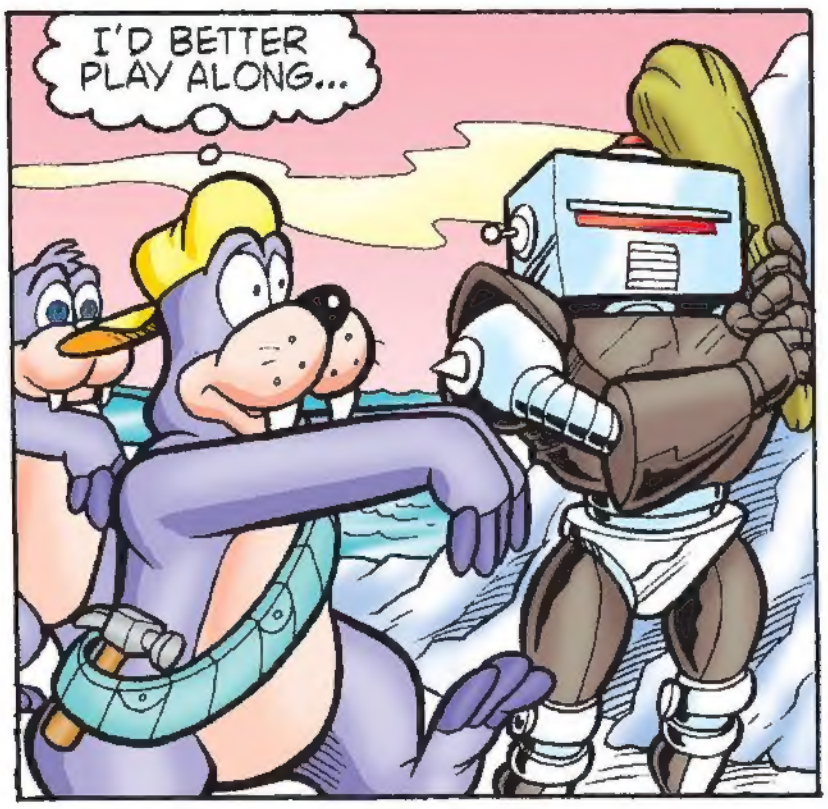

MOM!
SKEETER!

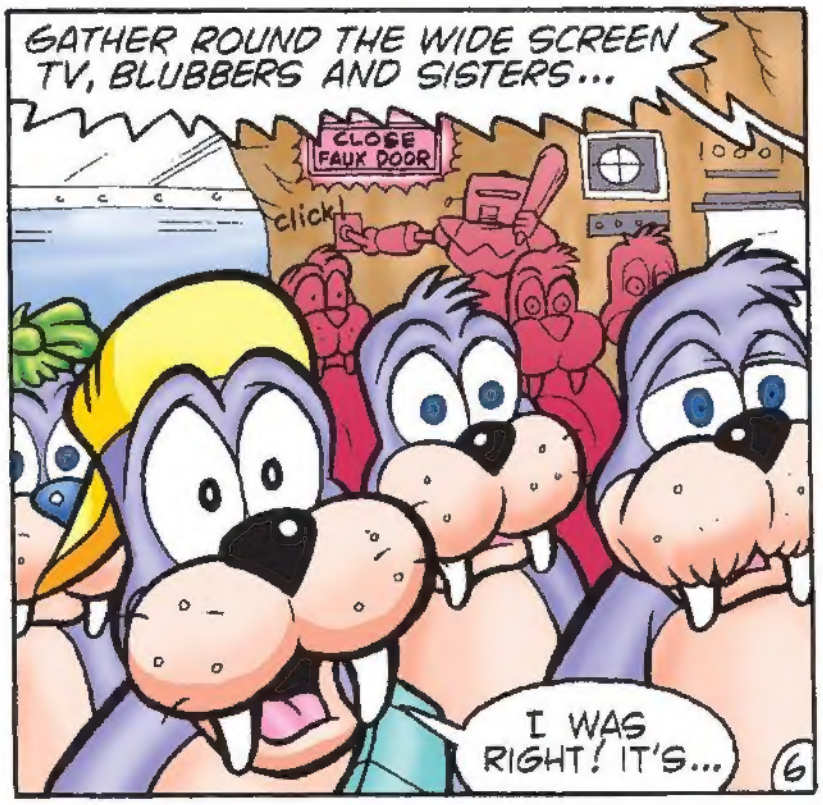
MOM? SKEETER? WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN A TRANCE!


IN FACT, THE ENTIRE HERD LOOKS HYPNOTIZED! WHAT'S GOING ON?...

ATTENTION, WALRUS SLAVES!!!
gasp! THAT VOICE!

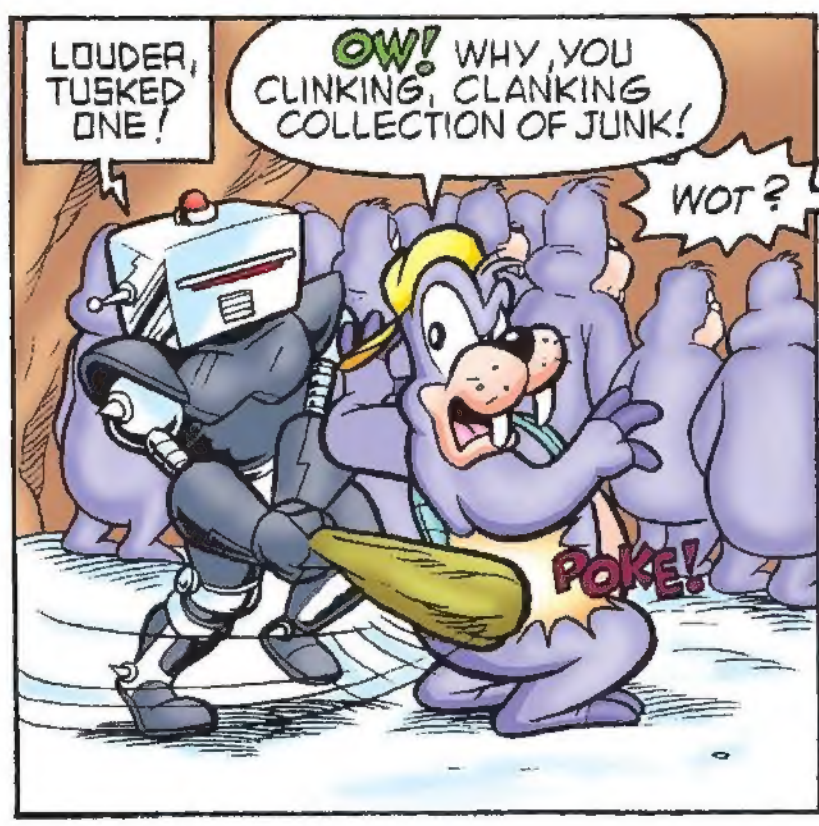

YOU WILL ALL PROCEED INSIDE TO THE HIDDEN FORTRESS WITHIN THIS ICEBERG! IF YOU DISOBEY, YOU WILL BE CLUBBED BY MY MERCILESS ICEBOTS!
YOW! EVERYBODY'S MINDLESSLY MARCHING!

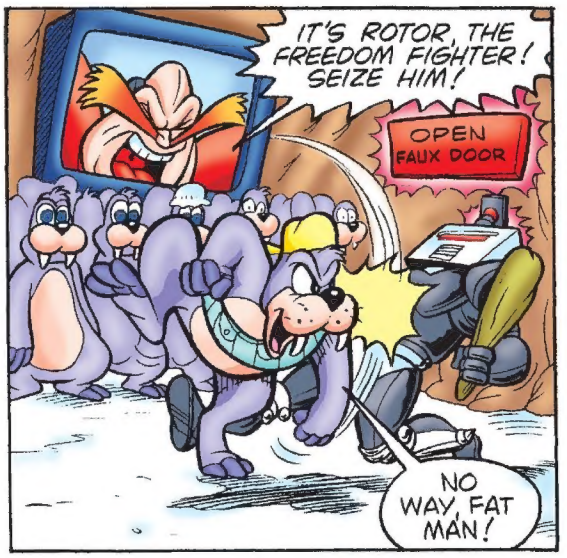

I'D BETTER PLAY ALONG...


GATHER ROUND THE WIDE SCREEN TV, BLUBBERS AND SISTERS...
CLOSE FAUX DOOR
click!
I WAS RIGHT! IT'S...

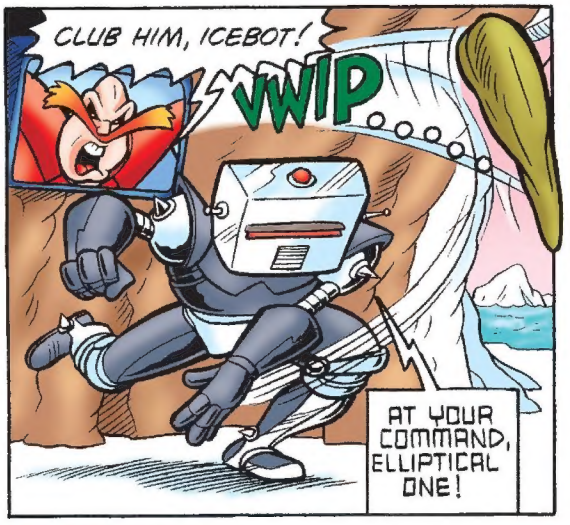
ROBOTNIK BIDS YOU WELCOME! EARLIER TODAY, I DETONATED A NEURON BOMB OVER YOUR COLONY...THE FALLOUT HAS SHORT-CIRCUITED YOUR BRAINS, MAKING YOU MY MINDLESS THRALLS! SOON, THE ENTIRE FROZEN NORTH SEA WILL BE MINE!

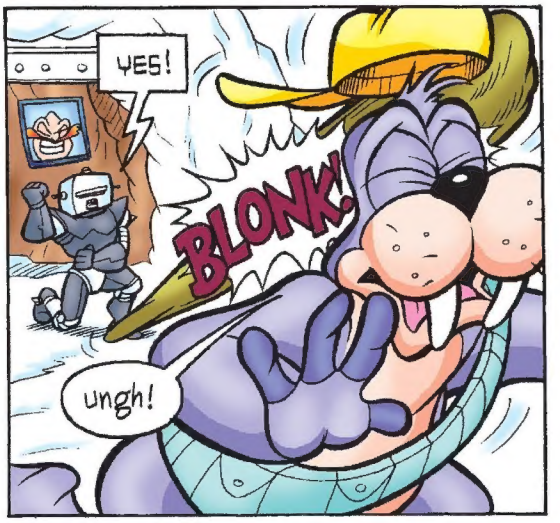
ulp!

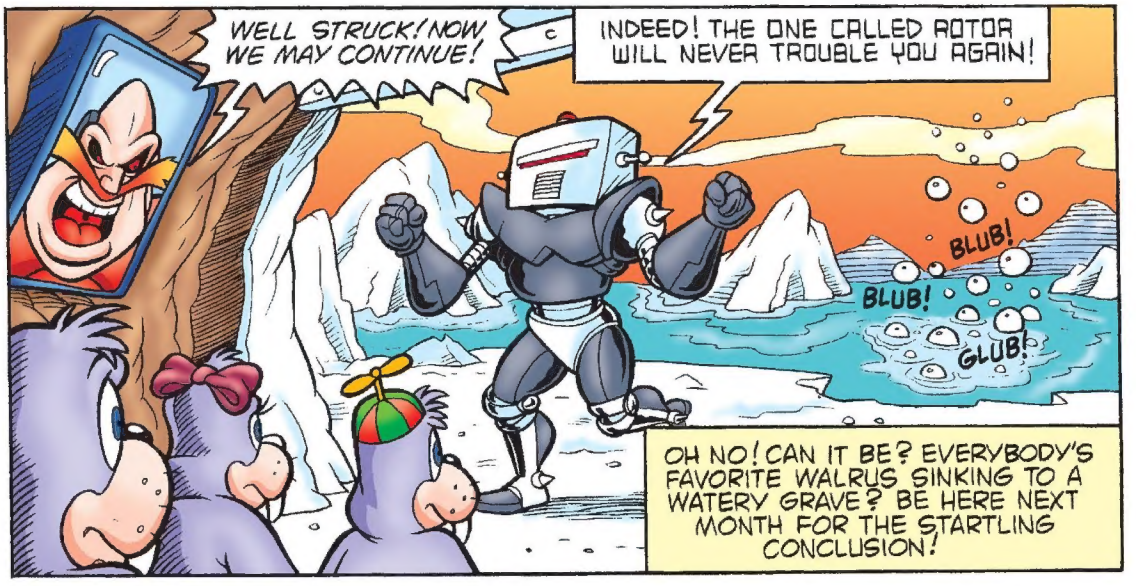



IT'S ROTOR, THE FREEDOM FIGHTER! SEIZE HIM!
OPEN FAUX DOOR
NO WAY, FAT MAN!

HALT IN THE NAME OF IVO ROBOTNIK!
≤huff puff≤ GOTTA MAKE IT TO THE WATER...


CLUB HIM, ICEBOT!
VWIP
AT YOUR COMMAND, ELLIPTICAL ONE!


YES!
BLONK!
ungh!


WELL STRUCK! NOW WE MAY CONTINUE!
INDEED! THE ONE CALLED ROTOR WILL NEVER TROUBLE YOU AGAIN!
BLUB!
BLUB!
GLUB!
OH NO! CAN IT BE? EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE WALRUS SINKING TO A WATERY GRAVE? BE HERE NEXT MONTH FOR THE STARTLING CONCLUSION!